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Publication date	<b>9th June, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 16</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882194</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/Contemporary</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B format</b>
Extent	<b>144 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## And Softly Go the Crossings: A collection of short stories

### Danielle Lim

#### Keyline

The silent interplay between beauty and darkness, pain and healing.

#### Description

In this collection of short stories, Singapore Literature Prize-winner Danielle Lim probes the unseen changes which take place in the human psyche and their impact on the textures of life.

Weaving through pain and healing, beauty and darkness, these silent crossings of the human heart and mind are deep and formidable. Yet they often go unnoticed due to their quiet, subtle nature. From a man struggling to bridge the distance between him and his father as his father dies, to the changes in the human psyche when people are pit competitively against one another, these stories seek to draw out the emotional and psychological threads which form the tapestry of lived experience.

With its portraits of love and loss, loneliness and heartache, hope and healing, *And Softly Go the Crossings* challenges the reader to encounter human connectedness through soft, yet powerful, inner rhythms.

#### Sales Points

- Danielle Lim is one of Singapore's biggest names in literature: 4,000 copies of *The Sound of SCH: A Mental Breakdown* were sold in 1.5 years.
- The stories are sincere, poignant, powerful and moves readers to dig deep into their own hearts, only to find we all have a connection to her characters in the story one way or another.
- She examines the unseen changes which take place in the human psyche,, their causes, and their effect on individuals and society.
- The stories probe the social issues we face today, such as:
  - Education, ageing, women, work & other socioeconomic issues;
  - The search for meaning in a hypercompetitive society.

#### Author Bio

Danielle Lim's first book, *The Sound of SCH: A Mental Breakdown*, a Life Journey, was co-winner of the Singapore Literature Prize 2016 (non-fiction). The memoir has been translated to Chinese and published in Taiwan, as well as translated to Tamil and published in India.

Her second book, *Trafalgar Sunrise*, a novel exploring Sars and leprosy, was published in 2018 and was a finalist in the Singapore Book Awards 2019 for Best Literary Work.

Danielle graduated from the University of Oxford and is based in Singapore, where she is a Lecturer at the Nanyang Polytechnic and Republic Polytechnic.



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Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>248 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## The Dogs

### O Thiam Chin

#### Keyline

Haunted by a childhood tragedy, a man looks back on his past and rediscovers a new meaning to his life.

#### Description

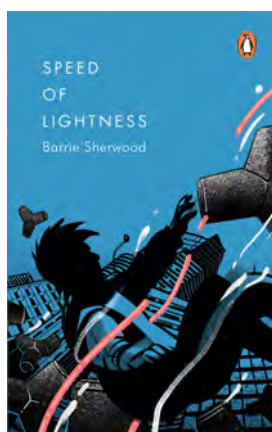
In *The Dogs*, Guan, a middle-aged man, decides to move back into the flat that had once belonged to his late father, who had died in it a few months back. He sells off his old flat and, in the process, estranges himself from his own son, who is at a loss over his father's sudden decision. While trying to settle in and to make sense of the new surroundings, Guan slowly gets to know the residents of the block and becomes acquainted with a neighbour, an old lonely man who dresses in his dead wife's clothes. As Guan explores and discovers more of the estate he lives in, through his long walks, he starts to have flashbacks about his past, vividly remembering his childhood in a kampong in Singapore in the 1950s, and his close friendship with Heng Chong, a schoolmate. He recalls the pranks and games they played, the mischief they got into—prowling the Sembawang Hills estate and setting the dogs free from the big houses in that estate—and the secrets they shared, one of which was the mysterious death of Heng Chong's baby sister who died during birth, something which set the boys on a quest to find the truth behind it. As they delved more and more into their investigations, the friendship between them was slowly tested, gradually revealing the cracks that began to tear them apart. The arrival of a stray dog in their kampong, one that the boys adopted as their own, soon proved to be the catalyst that sparked off a chain of events that led to the dissolution of their friendship, and the unforeseen death of a loved one that cast a long, indelible shadow over Guan's life subsequently. As Guan looks back into the past to find the answers to the mystery that surrounded this tragic death, he also comes to a clearer understanding of his present predication and learns to cope with his own personal losses and find ways to redeem himself from his past acts. In the act of negotiating his past and his pain, Guan finds new hopes in his solitude, and a new life he's slowly building with hard-won resilience, fortitude and purpose.

#### Sales Points

- The novel covers themes that resonate strongly Asian readers -- family ties, fatherhood and the debt of truth and lies.
- The novel goes further to explore the complications that can arise out of one man's desire to find purpose and meaning even in his twilight years, and the deep, prevailing sense of loneliness and being out of touch with the world at large, even though one could be surrounded by other people and distractions of all sorts. In an aging society, this condition is very real.
- Weaved masterfully in this novel, is a painful ongoing struggle to deal with one's traumatic past and to find a way to the truth at all costs.

#### Author Bio

O Thiam Chin's short stories have appeared in literary anthologies, such as *Best New Singaporean Short Stories Volumes 1, 2 and 3*, *A Rainbow Feast: New Asian Short Stories*, *ONE – The Anthology: Short Stories from Singapore's Best Authors*, and *Malaysian Tales: Retold & Remixed*, as well as in *Manoa*, *World Literature Today*, *The International Literary Quarterly*, *Asia Literary Review*, *Quarterly Literary Review Singapore*, *Cha: An Asian Literary Journal*, *Kyoto Journal*, *The Jakarta Post*, *The New Straits Times*, *Asiatic and Esquire (Singapore)*. Thrice longlisted for the Frank O' Connor Short Story Award, he is the author of *Free-Falling Man* (2006), *Never Been Better* (2009), *Under The Sun* (2010), *The Rest Of Your Life And Everything That Comes With It* (2011), *Love, Or Something Like Love* (2013), shortlisted for the 2014 Singapore Literature Prize, and *Signs of Life*, which was published in 2019. His debut novel, *Now That It's Over*, won the inaugural Epigram Books Fiction Prize (EBFP) in 2015 and also the Best Fiction title at the 2017 Singapore Book Awards, and his second novel, *Fox Fire Girl*, was shortlisted for the EBFP in 2016. He was an honorary fellow of the Iowa International Writing Program in 2010, and a recipient of the National Arts Council's Young Artist Award in 2012.



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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914086</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Speed of Lightness

**Barrie Sherwood**

### Keyline

A window on modern Japan, this off-kilter, anti-sentimental literary thriller is an eye-opening journey into the hinterlands of a postmodern nation.

### Description

Kyoto University student Aozora Fujiwara has been playing too much mah-jong and now he's deep in debt. When Aunt Okane ('money') dies and leaves a collection of priceless art to him and his sister, Mai, he thinks his problems are solved.

But they're only just beginning: Mai's disappeared and he can't liquidate the estate without her. The quest that ensues takes Aozora to the deep south of Japan and the unlikely setting of a Dutch theme park called, Amsterland... The joy in Sherwood's tale is in Aozora's madcap journey, during which he meets a slew of silly—and often sinister—souls. Among them: an oyster-loving businessman who sells lifelike inflatable dolls, and a corpulent crime boss who looks like a cross between Liberace and Kim Jong-Il. In his carefully woven descriptions, Sherwood shows unusual insight into a fast-changing society of disaffected youth and sleazy governance. This picaresque on steroids offers a refreshingly irreverent look at contemporary life in a not entirely implausible Japan.

### Sales Points

- Thrillers set in Asia are targeted in a particular way at a clearly defined readership. The attraction of the books lies in the geographical location, providing a window into an intriguing place; in the high-tempo narrative of the thriller genre; and in the quirky but often violent anti-hero.
- Sherwood's character-building is meticulous, but the countries themselves are a large part of the attraction. The characters are the best possible guide to every side of the countries in the novels, and much of the humour and interest he generates is derived from his authoritative familiarity with and thorough research of the various places. Through the novel, Sherwood gives the reader immersion in a city the tourist never sees.
- It is a picaresque thriller set in Asia, addresses contemporary social problems (especially those created or exacerbated by criminal elements) and dramatizes themes of nationhood vs selfhood, belonging, honest governance.
- The hero adds a soft element to the fast paced and hard hitting thrillers. He is deeply in love, but finds the demonstration of that love somehow restricted or curtailed, either by outward forces or his own questionable decision-making. Each story is a vanquishing of some exterior evil, but also, ultimately, a re-prioritizing of his own interior values.

### Author Bio

A native of Hong Kong, Barrie Sherwood grew up in rural British Columbia before moving on to Quebec, England, France and Japan. Since 2013, he has been Assistant Professor in the School of Humanities at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He lives with his wife and daughters within walking distance of Chomp Chomp.

Barrie's publications include *The Pillow Book of Lady Kasa* (DC Books, Montreal, 2000), *Escape from Amsterdam* (Granta Books, London, 2007; St Martin's Minotaur, New York, 2008) and *The Angel Tiger and Other Stories* (Epigram Books, Singapore, 2019). His short fiction has been anthologized in *Best New Singaporean Short Stories Volume 4* and *Food Republic*. His fiction and non-fiction has been published in the journals *Stand*, *The Istanbul Review*, *Matrix*, *Lighthouse*, *QLRS*, *Asia Literary Review* and *TEXT*.



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SEA**THE ASH HOUSE**  
- AUDREY CHIN

Cover to come soon...

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Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954273</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/ Gothic</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>256 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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**THE ASH HOUSE****Audrey Chin****Keyline**

A clairvoyant nun must uncover the secrets of an enigmatic pipa-playing spirit to save a haunted merchant family and their century-old ancestral home.

**Description**

The Tjoa ash house originally intended for the family's ancestral tablets has stood at the top of Kota Cahaya's exclusive Green Hill for a century. Now, it is all drooping lintels and sagging roof; a haunted house with a haunted heir in it - Arno Tjoa, a Barbie-doll fixated cripple whom Sister Mary Michael, the clairvoyant nun, has been sent to set free. Others within the Tjoa circle also need spiritual release: Girl, the comatose maid Arno is obsessed with; Irene Tjoa, Arno's controlling aunt; and Bing Fa, the fascinating spirit of a pipa-playing diva trapped by a ghost marriage to Arno's grandfather. According to Arno, the elusive pipa diva is the key. All will be well with Girl and the Tjoas if Bing Fa is freed. However, as the family's skeletons are unearthed, the nun realizes it is not in her power to save everyone or everything. Who or what must be sacrificed? What must be left to turn to dust?

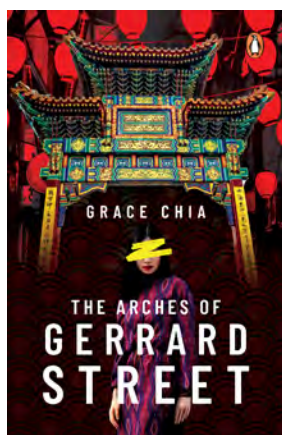
Set in a 21 st century South-East-Asian port city where spirits still linger, *The Ash House* is the story of an overseas-Chinese merchant family haunted by the legacy of love gone wrong, with an ending both unexpected and heartbreaking.

**Sales Points**

- It is a cross-over Asian Gothic fantasy and mystery. Ghost stories are especially popular in Singapore and South East Asia. Per the popularity of the recent works of Zen Cho, Yangsze Choo and YY Wang, Asian based fantasy is also gaining ground in the UK and US. Additionally, the protagonist's quest to discover what the ghost really wants may pull in fans of the mystery genre.
- Beta readers have commented that the story has new elements and interesting twists. For example, the ghost is imprisoned by a ghost marriage but scatters her husband's belongings to diffuse his love. When she is re-captured by his family, she pretends to stay for her own reasons, which are discovered only at the end of the story.
- It is a good read. It was selected for a critique by UK's The Literary Consultancy under the NAC and SingLit StationMASS scheme, and received a very favourable report from Dr. Stephen Carver, a Gothic literature expert who taught at the University of East Anglia's Creative Writing program. Indeed, it has been selected as the September Feature for TLC's showcase. The feature can be viewed here: <https://literaryconsultancy.co.uk/showcase/audrey-chin/>

**Author Bio**

Audrey Chin is a Southeast Asian writer whose work explores the intersections between gender, faith and culture. Her essays, short stories, novels and contemplative verses have been published in Singapore, India, the UK and the US. She has been shortlisted thrice for the Singapore Literature Prize and is a Fellow of the 2017 International Writers Program in Iowa.



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Price	<b>SGD 21.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882910</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>268 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## The Arches of Gerrard Street

Grace Chia

### Keyline

Murder. Migrants. Mafia. A small-town girl from Malaysia goes to London's Chinatown to uncover the truth behind the tragedy that befell her childhood sweetheart.

### Description

The shooting of Molly's childhood friend in London's Chinatown has led her from Batu Pahat in Malaysia to the British capital to find answers. Who murdered him? And why? She soon becomes embroiled in a web of deceit spun in an immigrant enclave shrouded in secrecy as her past catches up on her. *The Arches of Gerrard Street* is a coming-of-age novel about a young girl from a small town thrust into a big city finding her way back to herself.

### Sales Points

- Readers interested in a coming-of-age love story as well as a whodunit with socio-political-cultural themes that sweeps across different locales in the East and West will find this interesting.
- Most of the UK setting happens in Chinatown, which is a unique ghetto both highly orientalist, seedy and colourful (also flavourful) that will appeal to non-Chinese not familiar with Chinese cultures, as well as appealing to Asian readers who are fascinated with how immigration in the UK works, how Asians are being perceived in the West and how this specific group of fictional Asians work and live in the UK.
- It is an eye-opener, an antithesis to the crazy rich Asians-type in a Western setting but the underclass, particularly the Chinese, which is often neglected in novels about them when they go West.

### Author Bio

Grace Chia graduated with an English Literature and Theatre Studies major at NUS, with an MA from Goldsmiths College, UOL. She has three published poetry collections under her belt, a couple of prose titles and her earlier commissions for non-fiction books. Grace has lived outside Singapore for 13 years and has been an adjunct lecturer at NTU and DigiPen-SIT. She was the inaugural NAC-NTU Writer-in-Residence, and have since done residencies at Toji Cultural Centre, Seoul Art Space Yeonhui and Uni of Macau. Her most recent collaboration was with a Dutch photographer based in HK on a book titled Hong Kong Garage Dogs where she wrote all the haikus accompanying the book.



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ISBN-13	<b>9789814914963</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction/ Young-Adult</b>

Format	<b>B, 129x198x19.9 mm</b>
Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>348 Pages</b>
Weight	<b>0.34 g</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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Sample Chapter Art



## Mist-bound: How to Glue Back Grandpa

**DARYL KHO**

### Keyline

Can Grandpa be saved in time before he's forever lost to the mists within his mind?

### Description

Meet Alexis. Her Grandpa's memories have been shattered. The only cure? Memory Glue. To brew it, she'll just need a few ingredients:

Like, nose hair from a *baku* (dream-eater), sweat from a *duyung* (sea siren) and... OK. Maybe some of the stuff can be tricky to find in local supermarkets.

To obtain them Alexis must journey to an enchanted land called Mist, where the fabled creatures from Grandpa's folktales are alive in the flesh. Many of whom aren't strict vegetarians.

Oh, and there's a deadline. The items must be gathered by Spring, else Grandpa's memories will be gone for good.

At least she'll have company: the nasty *kenit* (forest imp) who'd cast the horrible spell on Grandpa, and her stern Grandma, who harbours a secret that will change Alexis' life forever...

Piece of cake, right?

### ENDORSEMENTS

#### NGO Support

- Dementia Singapore (<https://dementia.org.sg>). Part of the global Alzheimer's Disease International network.
- TOUCH Community Services (<https://www.touch.org.sg>), Singapore's pre-eminent Social services charity.

Both organizations have agreed to support the book with co-promotions and publicity, and have provided forewords within the book.

#### Reviewer

"Filled with imagination, heart and hope"

Laura Atkins, New York Times-featured and multi-award-winning co-author of the *Fighting for Justice* series (Social Justice Literature Award, NY Historical Society Children's Book Prize and more).

### Sales Points

- The book is one of the rare works of fiction for Middle Years readers featuring the topic of dementia to be published in the South East Asian region. It tells of a family threatened to be torn apart by a grandparent's shattered memories (an allegory for dementia). The only cure lies in a concoction called Memory Glue, many of its various enchanted ingredients only found in a parallel world called Mist. But ultimately the heroine defies the odds and succeeds in her quest thanks to the bonds of love and family. The book's underlying message is that these bonds are ultimately the most critical ingredients of Memory Glue.
- Dementia is a growing issue for many families today. It is often difficult to talk to young children about dementia in an insightful and thoughtful way. Through its premise, the book aims to raise greater awareness of dementia (and dementia care) amongst the younger generation, to be a starting point for family conversations about the topic.



- 'When an old person dies, a library burns down' (writer Amadou Hampâté Bâ). Along those same lines, when a grandparent suffers from dementia, the library gets set on fire. The book aims help children gain better appreciation for their grandparents and the lifetime's wealth of stories and experiences within them; before it's too late and these untold epics are forever lost.
- The book is also a celebration of stories and storytelling, featuring folktales, fables and magical creatures predominantly from Asia. There is much space for more stories from Asia for Asian kids. And hopefully this novel will help spark curiosity amongst kids to learn more about the myths from our own backyard.

## Author Bio

Malaysia-born and Singapore-based, Daryl Kho works in the regional TV industry, where he basically sells other people's stories and ideas for a living.

He was a prolific creator during his student days: composing songs, poems, plays and even a kung-fu musical! However, after Daryl joined the rat race, corporate emails became his sole literary output. Gradually, his creative tank dried up.

Then in 2009 — shortly before the birth of Daryl's only child, Alexis — Daryl's father was felled by two strokes, which also caused vascular dementia. The strokes took away his dad's mobility and independence, whilst dementia robbed him of many of his memories and much of his personality. Both Daryl and his sister live abroad. So, Daryl's mum — a finance professional — had to assume the additional burden of being her husband's primary (and often only) caregiver.

Deeply affected by his dad's illness, Daryl was equally moved by his mother's otherworldly love, superhuman strength and unswerving devotion to her husband. All this, combined with guilt and an immense regret that Alexis and her Grandpa never got to truly "meet" each other before the mists moved into his mind, rekindled Daryl's long-buried itch to put pen to paper.

This was how his debut “family novel”, *Mist-Bound: How to Glue Back Grandpa*, was born. The story was also a chance for Alexis to have an adventure with her Grandma, since they live in different countries and rarely see each other.

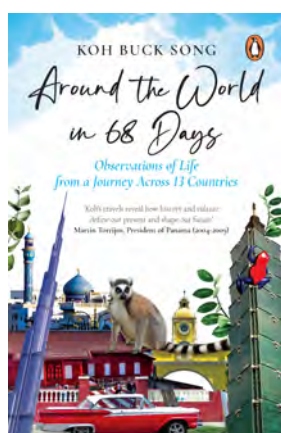
Sadly, Daryl's father's condition continued to decline. He passed away before the book could be completed and read to him. Subsequently, Daryl nearly abandoned the project, but finally decided to see it through. For Daryl, each time that a child reads the story is a chance for Grandpa to be "saved", over and over, and over again.

In terms of past works, one of Daryl's short stories that was written as a high school student in Ontario, Canada, was published in INCITE, an annual anthology featuring the best student works from the province. That same year, Daryl was also awarded the Reginald A. Finney Award for Proficiency in Senior English. At his alma mater, the University of Chicago, his plays and kung-fu performances (all co-written, co-directed and co-acted with his landlord, no less!) were the highlight and backbone of the annual Chinese New Year Shows that were performed to paying audiences of close to a thousand.

### Key Cast of Characters & Creatures







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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
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Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>340 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Around the World in 68 days

**Observations of Life from a journey across 13 countries**

**KOH BUCK SONG**

### Keyline

Insights into thirteen countries' ancient and modern cultures, their national identities and nation brands, and their place in the world today

### Description

*Around The World In 68 Days* is a travelogue with a big difference – not about how to get there, what to see or where to dine, but instead, seeking to glean insights into the meaning of life and the true nature of human societies, using the lens of the brand attributes of each territory to look more clearly into the kaleidoscope of humanity. In a time of a global pandemic, this is also a type of memoir, a tribute to travel, of a pre-Covid-19 world. This is like a 68-day extravaganza of *ichigo ichie*, the Japanese concept of cherishing every worthwhile moment.

Singaporean writer Koh Buck Song – author and editor of more than 30 books – distils the quintessential brand essence of very different cultures in 13 countries across four continents. He draws from his experience and perspectives as a country brand adviser, advocate of liveable and sustainable cities, and commentator on society and public policy. Koh, also a poet and artist, opens each chapter with his own haiga artwork of a haiku poem with an ink sketch. These artworks complement this book's effort to capture and interpret shared humanity across the globe – what makes each of us unique, what we share, and how, in the end, perhaps we're all really chasing ultimately similar dreams.

### Sales Points

- Buck Song is a well-known personality in both the literary, academic and political scene. He was the resident book critic of *The Straits Times* and the gap he left upon his departure has yet to be filled by someone of equal calibre.
- The travelogue is unique; each place is described from the perspective of a country brand consultant, advocate of liveable and sustainable cities, poet and artist, and astute commentator on society, leadership, politics and public policy, under a different theme for each country. So this is not about where to eat and what to see in each country.
- The writing combines prose with haiga artwork featuring a haiku poem -- not done often, yet haiga and haiku resonate well with Southeast Asians.

### Author Bio

Koh Buck Song (family name: Koh) is a Singaporean brand adviser and the author and editor of more than 30 books, including one on Singapore's country brand – *Brand Singapore: Nation Branding In A World Disrupted By Covid-19* (third edition, 2021, with a Chinese translation published in China, 2012). He has advised foreign governments on building their nation brands, and has spoken extensively on country branding internationally, including in London, Oxford, Cambridge (Massachusetts), Chicago (Illinois), Phuentsholing (Bhutan), Tahiti, Tokyo, Shanghai and Melbourne.

An avid traveller, he has visited more than 80 countries and territories, from Antarctica to Zimbabwe. An artist of haiga, a modern interpretation of the 16th-century Japanese art form of ink sketches combined with haiku poetry, he has held several exhibitions in Singapore and Laos. This book features a haiga artwork for each of the 13 countries visited. He read English at Cambridge University in the UK and has a master's in public administration from Harvard Kennedy School, USA.

As an adjunct editor at Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities, he has authored and edited reports on the annual World Cities Summit since 2014. Previously, he



was a columnist and political and arts journalist with Singapore's main English daily The Straits Times, and head of global media relations and strategic planning at the Singapore Economic Development Board. As head of public affairs (Southeast Asia) with the communications consultancy Hill & Knowlton, he advised the Singapore government on many aspects of urban development, including the global launch of Gardens by the Bay and the National Gallery Singapore.



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SEA**ENRIQUE THE BLACK**

- DANNY JALIL

Cover to come soon...

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Pub. Month	<b>August 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
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Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/Historical Fiction - Slavery</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in **Singapore****ENRIQUE THE BLACK****Danny Jalil****Keyline**

A coming of age epic, set during the decade Ferdinand Magellan circumnavigated the world as seen through the eyes of his indentured Malay slave.

**Description**

Who was the man they called Enrique the Black?

Taken from his family, and forced into slavery during the Portuguese invasion of Malacca in 1511, the Malay boy rechristened as Enrique must quickly to adapt to a new religion, and to the strange new lands of Portugal and Spain.

A decade later his master Ferdinand Magellan, dreaming of fame and fortune, has an audacious plan to sail to the other side of the world, on a seemingly quick, uncharted route to the Moluccas Spice Islands. Enrique will prove invaluable once they arrive there, as he alone speaks the islanders' Malay language.

What no one in Magellan's fleet can foresee though, is how giants, bad weather, mutiny and excruciating hunger haunt their every move.

Even more dangerous however, is Magellan's own religious fervour, which threatens to undo the entire expedition once they arrive at the islands soon to be known as the Philippines, where Enrique will face certain death, and perhaps the chance to finally taste freedom.

**Sales Points**

- Readers will be fascinated with the idea of a man not really heard of in the public western historical consciousness in regards to the circumnavigation of the globe, and I wanted Enrique's voice to be heard.
- The idea of what makes a person free is universal and has a strong appeal in today's society. Is serving a good master who gives you plenty of autonomy considered being a slave just the same?
- Within this story is the idea of choosing not just freedom but also faith. This Muslim boy was christened and given the name Enrique once he was indentured to Magellan. Did he enjoy being a Christian as opposed to being a Muslim? How successful was Enrique in opposing Magellan's religious zeal? Readers will identify and empathise with Enrique's struggles.

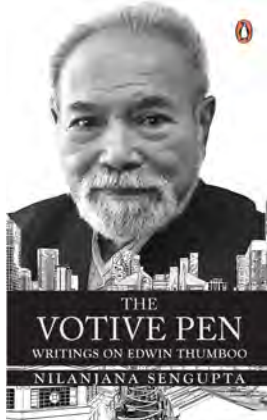
**Author Bio**

Danny Jalil majored in Multimedia Arts and studied Creative Writing and Screenwriting at LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts, during which time he wrote numerous short stories and film scripts.

His short film comedy "Spun" was nominated the merit prize at the National University of Singapore Student's Union (NUSSU) Inter-Tertiary Video Festival.

He has also written movie reviews and conducted interviews for First Magazine and has had his works published in Singapore's Greatest Comics (Nice One Entertainment) and ACTOR (A Commitment To Our Roots).

His novel *The Machine Boy* was a winner of NAC's Beyond Words: Young and Younger Award and published by Straits Times Press and he has also written the graphic novel *Lieutenant Adnan and The Last Regiment*, illustrated by artist Zaki Ragman, published by Asiapac Books.



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www.penguin.sg

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Revised Publication date	<b>25 December, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 25.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882132</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Biographies and Memoirs</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>280 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
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Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## The Votive Pen

### Nilanjana Sengupta

#### Keyline

A riveting look at the fiercely original, intellectually brilliant mind of Singapore's unofficial Poet-Laureate, Edwin Thumboo whose poetry is key to understanding the emotional hinterland of the city-state.

#### Description

A rivetting look at the fiercely original, intellectually brilliant mind of Singapore's unofficial Poet-Laureate, Edwin Thumboo. Born of Tamil and Teochew parents, he embraced the Protestant faith late in his life. He has a self-confessed fetish for Yeats and Pound and yet completed his doctoral thesis on post-colonial African poetry. He taught himself the Ramayana and I-Ching but found traces of the Odysseus in the shadows of the Merlion. He is brusquely vocal about poetry with a purpose and yet appears a hopeless romantic in his poems about his wife. What happens when a mind which is such a melting pot of brilliant ideas and contrary emotions tries to unscramble the identity of a country like Singapore which is complex, multiracial, has known a fierce economic growth that has often elbowed aside everything else? *The Votive Pen* sets out to see Edwin Thumboo's poetry – steadily and see it whole – without the intervening static of earlier critical writing and with an intense alertness to the text.

#### Sales Points

- *The Votive Pen* goes where no biography has gone, into the deepest recesses of an intellectually creative mind in an attempt to delicately peel off the layers and decipher its workings.
- The book would be a key to understanding why it is imperative to maintain the multiracial balance of Singapore and simultaneously, help it achieve a singular identity which is based on its inherent multiplicity. The book not only looks at the 'whys' but also some of the 'hows'.
- Internationally the book in exploring one of the most brilliant minds of the nation would showcase Singapore's creative potential, which yet remains a fledgling area of research.
- Edwin Thumboo's poetry is infallible in understanding the internal life of the city of Singapore. In joining the dots between the city and the poetic psyche, *The Votive Pen* helps in better understanding the emotional hinterland of the various stages of development that the city has known. It also explains some of the rationale in decisions taken by the city administration.

#### Author Bio

Nilanjana Sengupta is a notable author of Singapore who has built a reputation in writing books which travel to uncharted territories. In *A Gentleman's Word* she chronicled the legacy of a forgotten war hero, Subhas Chandra Bose across Southeast Asia. In, *The Female Voice of Myanmar*, she wrote of the latent masculine bias of Burmese culture and women voices which have managed to cut through the clutter. A Biography of M Bala Subramanion was a nuanced look at the Tamils of Singapore who though the majority Indian community, struggle with vulnerabilities of their own. Sengupta, a research scholar at NUS and ISEAS-Yosuf Ishaak Institute, has been critically acclaimed, widely read and her books have been translated and included in the university course.



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Price	<b>SGD 18.50</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882668</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction/Young Adult</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>248 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Last Kid Running: Night of the Six Headed Robogator

**Don Bosco**

### Keyline

*Last Kid Running: Night of the Six Headed Robogator* is a thrilling gamebook where YOU decide how the story unfolds.

### Description

Welcome to Book 2 of the thrilling LAST KID RUNNING gamebook series, where YOU decide how the story unfolds. You are Runner X, one of six eager contestants on the biggest reality show streaming on the mobile web.

This time, you're taken to a secret venue in Indonesia. The enigmatic Dr Yamato has created a massive Run Dome filled with crazy technological inventions to challenge you and amuse his viewers.

You're prepared to face anything, even the intimidating Six Headed Robogator. But the night gets creepy. And you can't help feeling that the Run Dome hides a nasty surprise in its shadows.

Will you be too overwhelmed to outrun the others? Or do you have what it takes to be the LAST KID RUNNING? Quick, open the book and find out!

### Sales Points

- "A brilliant, perfectly paced novel that will have readers reaching for their running shoes and racing to the last page to be the last kid running. You feel like you're physically and emotionally in the story." - Dave Seow, author of 45 books and counting
- "In a word - just wow! While it usually takes a digital mobile device in my line of work to show Augmented Reality, Welcome to the Scramble by Don Bosco literally had me seeing imaginative augmentation, right before my eyes!" - Lionel Chok, Creative Technologist, [www.IMMERSiVELY.co](http://www.IMMERSiVELY.co)
- Reality TV scenario involving augmented reality and current mobile media trends
- Enthusiastic celebration of mobile and internet culture
- For both girls and boys. We won't identify Runner X as male or female.
- Asian /Cosmopolitan storyworlds
- Fun and humorous narrative style

### Author Bio

Don Bosco is an award-winning writer and publisher of thrilling fiction for teens and children. His stories are inspired by Asian legends and pop culture. He started the publishing studio Super Cool Books in 2011. In 2015, his Sherlock Hong series was released internationally. At the Popular Readers' Choice Awards 2015, his Lion City Adventures series was awarded Best Book in the English (Children) Category and also Best Book Cover, English (Children) Category. He maintains an influential blog, and also runs 100 WRITERS, a publishing incubator. He has also been a featured speaker at writing festivals and media content conferences.



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Publication date	<b>10th March, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 18.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882248</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B-Format</b>
Extent	<b>256 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Raffles Readers: A century of adventures

**Edited by David Seow**

### Keyline

So you thought you knew what went on inside The Raffles Hotel, but have you read these tales, recently unearthed from the archives?

### Description

Raffles Hotel is the best known, oldest and most elegant hotel in Singapore. When it was first built in 1887, it stood on Beach Road, opposite the sea. Nowadays, Beach Road is in the middle of a thriving, modern city. There are many tales of weird and wonderful events at this beautiful hotel. And hundreds of famous people have stayed there. Here, in the Raffles Readers, you will meet some characters who maybe, just maybe, could have stayed in the hotel. Who knows? Stories spanning from the 1920s to 2000s, these imaginative tales draw in the young readers to the wonderful world inside the iconic Raffles hotel and the adventures of its eclectic guest list.

### Sales Points

- Imaginative stories of 8,000 to 20,000 words based in and around The Raffles Hotel for readers aged 8 to 12.
- Set in different eras, spanning the history of The Raffles, past, present and future.
- Fast-paced, humorous and intriguing plots to draw young readers into the drama of Singapore's iconic hotel.
- Readers' Notes at the end of each book - to learn more about relevant facts.
- Black and white illustrations throughout, with a small visual clue linking the characters from one story to the next (eg, photo, sketch or signature).
- Authors from Singapore and abroad - members of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

### Author Bio

David Seow is a well-known children's book writer on the Singapore literary scene. He is the author of 43 well-received children's books, including The Sam, Sebbie and Di-Di-Di & Xandy series. His book *There's Soup on My Fly* was dramatized at the Asian Festival of Children's Content in 2012. And in 2014, The Learning Connections staged it to a sold-out crowd at the Alliance Francaise. In 2005, David was invited to sit on the judging panel of MDA's inaugural First Time Writers and Illustrators Initiative. Since then he has also judged the Book Council's Bilingual Project, and Marshall Cavendish's 13th Budding Writers Project. In 2018, he was chief judge for the Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award. For the past seven years, David has served as a manuscript assessor for the National Arts Council. Two of David's titles 'A Day with the Duchess' and 'A Royal Adventure' were featured in The Sunday Express, Hello! and the International Business Times. David has served on the executive committee of the National Book Development Council. His latest books are *Race to Rio: Joseph Schooling goes for Olympic Gold* and *Storm over Typhoon Theatre*.

**Orders to:** [customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg](mailto:customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg)



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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914208</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/Humour</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>230 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## 16 Swipes: The Other Perspective

### Mark Powell

#### Keyline

16 women's misadventures with the men of Tinder

#### Description

After reading this book, sixteen very red faced men should give up online dating. Your dates have now spoken.

*16 Swipes: The Other Perspective* takes you on a journey of discovery through a rinse cycle of Tinder dates, personal encounters, and struggles, as women navigate the sea of online profiles in search of a soulmate. Through a fair number of swipes, you'll smile, split your sides laughing and be thankful to have dodged these yourself.

Beyond the humour, you will gain insights into the relationships to avoid, situations to extract and the men you should never get serious with. Mistakes are shared so you gain valuable dating lessons.

#### Sales Points

- Humankind has always been interested in the art of courtship, in its many-splendoured ways, be it "Tinder" or "Coffee & Bagel", the world of dating has changed. Readers are curious to read about dating fails, especially if it is humorous and is an entertaining read.
- Readers can learn from the author's experiences and take away some of the useful tips for getting their profiles noticed.
- In this new age, there are different expectations when you date across culture and race. The women featured in this book are from vastly different backgrounds – culturally and socially – which all together forms an interesting look at the modern dating scene.

#### Author Bio

Mark Powell is a British born novelist, playwright and screenwriter who lives in Singapore. An explosive writer and storyteller, Mark delivers brutally realistic fiction and non-fiction alike with strong characters and compelling plots. His preferred genre is action/thriller, with published novels: *Quantum Breach* (2009, Marshall Cavendish), *Deep Six* (2010, Marshall Cavendish), *The Somali Sanction* and *The Broker*. In addition, he has published *30 Seconds of Courage*, and a young adult novel, *The Adventures of Danny Dare*.



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SEA

## A TIME FOR MURDER A Das Sisters Mystery

- Anjana Rai Chaudhuri

Cover to come soon...

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

www.penguin.sg

Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954266</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult/Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>348 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## A TIME FOR MURDER

### A Das Sisters Mystery

Anjana Rai Chaudhuri

#### Keyline

A towering condominium near railway lines. A woman is murdered. The Das sisters must uncover a murderer in the Singapore heartland who is on a killing spree.

#### Description

The first of the *Das Sisters Mystery Series* finds Inspector Dolly Das of the Singapore CID and her sister, Lily, on the trail of a cold-blooded murderer in the Singapore heartland.

It is 2009. On a dark, hazy December night, Mary Jacob's dead body is found at Silver Springs Condominium in the Singapore heartland. Is it a suicide, or did someone push Mary out of her kitchen window? Forensics investigation points to murder.

Inspector Dolly Das of the Singapore CID is assigned to the case. Multiple suspects have means and motives for murdering Mary, ranging from her estranged husband to her neighbours. When two more murders occur, pressure mounts on Dolly putting her job at risk. Desperately, she turns to her sister, Lily, for help in solving the murders. Lily runs a café and minimart at Silver Springs Condominium, placing her in a good position to gain information that the police cannot access.

Supported by Uma, their sharp-tongued 78-year-old mother, Lily's assistant, Vernon, his girlfriend, Angie, and Lily's domestic helper, Girlie, the Das Sisters team up to solve the murders.

But can Dolly concentrate on the case when her marriage is breaking up? What will Lily do when she finds herself drawn to one of the chief suspects? And which of the Das sisters uncovers the crucial clue that unmasks a cool and calculating murderer?

#### Sales Points

- This cozy mystery is modelled on hugely popular British TV crime serials like *Grantchester* where the amateur sleuth teams up with a police inspector to solve murders where of course, the amateur sleuth solves it before the police inspector. Set in Singapore, the model is adapted to include two Indian sisters, Lily and Dolly Das. Dolly is a DI in the Singapore CID and Lily, her younger sister, runs a restaurant in a condominium block. Readers will love the local flavour, the gossip groups in a condo, Lily triumphing over Dolly. Readers engage with the average person solving the murders and that is Lily. Characters are people whom readers are likely to meet in their everyday lives generating immediate engagement. The murders take place in the Singapore heartland and written from a local point of view. It has the potential to engage readers from other countries as well since the mysteries are whodunit and plausible, allowing the mystery reader to engage with and, at the same time, learn about different cultures. For example, the mysteries may sell well in India as well as Singapore.

- The story is written so that readers feel they can solve the murders along with Lily Das. There are plenty of clues and red herrings and when the murderer is not whom anyone expected, it gives the reader satisfaction. Importantly, not only can the readers identify with the characters, the books study human interactions. The examination of what may drive someone to murder is shown to the reader and this understanding is as potent as the quest for justice by the protagonists. Mystery readers are clever, and the books give them an opportunity to travel with the characters to solve the murders. These readers are inquisitive; and thus, they will engage with Ms. Nosy Parker Lily Das.

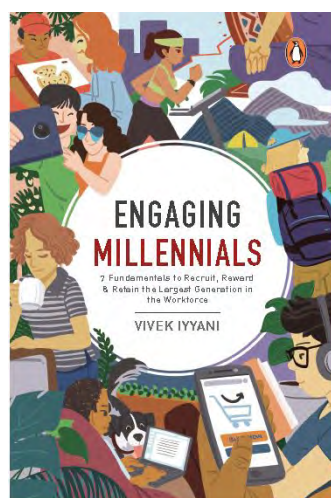




• Like other cozy mysteries, there is a quirky supporting cast for the protagonist duo. These characters generate humour as well as help solve the murders. There is Uma, the 80-year-old mother of Lily and Dolly Das, who hugely favours her younger daughter to the other's chagrin. There is Chinese youth, Vernon, Lily's restaurant assistant, who is a Polytechnic dropout and his girlfriend, Angie; they represent the enterprising though sometimes dreamy youth of Singapore. There is Girlie, Lily's domestic helper, a Filipina who loves to air her opinions and is game to taking risks to solve the murders. The supporting cast provides humour and keeps the reading light and breezy, in line with what readers of cozy mysteries expect.

### Author Bio

Dr. Anjana Rai Chaudhuri grew up in India, the US and the UK, before settling in Singapore. A retired scientist, she divides her time between writing, reading and social work. Her book of historical fiction, *The Scent of Frangipani*, was published by Monsoon Books (UK) in 2019.



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Penguin Random House SEA

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Price	<b>SGD 31.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814867825</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Business and Management</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>296 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
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Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Engaging Millennials: 7 Fundamentals to Recruit, Reward & Retain the Largest Generation In the Workforce

### Vivek Iyyani

#### Keyline

A guide into what engages and motivates the millennial population working in organisations.

#### Description

By 2025, Millennials will form 75% of the global workforce and more than half of them (58% of global Millennials) are living in Asia! As this huge demographic surges towards becoming a substantial contributor to Asia's workforce, organisations continue to face engagement and retention challenges while balancing the need to stay relevant in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous world.

Archaic methods of management do not deliver success with the new breed of employees. Instead, the outdated model leaves Millennials uninspired and unmotivated to produce results. Like any generation of workers, performance lies in management—if you're not getting what you need from your Millennials, it's time to learn how to lead them the way they need to be led. To get the best out of Millennials, it is imperative for leaders to modify their current management style.

While the pop culture narrative would have us believe that Millennials are entitled, lazy, spoiled brats— Millennials are the generation of change: highly adaptive, bright, and quick to take on a challenge. If the different generations can learn how to collaborate in a way that capitalises on their strengths and compensates for their weaknesses, it will inspire a knowledge sharing inevitably encourages the cross-pollination of ideas which can spark major innovation

Best practices and proven strategies from Google, Netflix, LinkedIn, and other top employers provide real-world models for effective management, and new research on first-wave versus second-wave Millennials helps you parse the difference between your new hires and more experienced workers. You'll learn why flex time, social media, dress code, and organizational structure are shifting, and answer the all-important question: How do we engage Millennials?

Millennials are the product of a different time, with different values, different motivations, and different wants. This book shows you how to bring out their best and discover just how much they're really capable of.

#### Sales Points

- While most books are based on Western culture and demographic, *Engaging Millennials* focuses on the influence of Asian Culture and paints a different picture of Asian Millennials.
- The book includes almost 100 case studies ranging from Startups to SMEs to MNCs over a wide range of industries on how they manage Millennials.
- This books will help leaders and companies save time, improve team morale, optimize productivity and improve the bottom line by reducing the continuous cycle of re-advertising, rehiring, and retraining of employees every time a Millennial talent leaves.

#### Author Bio

VIVEK IYYANI is a Millennial Keynote Speaker who has been invited to speak internationally in countries such as Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Brunei, Vietnam, Thailand and India. He primarily helps organisations to engage the Millennial workforce. He has worked with reputable organisational bodies such as the Brunei Civil Service, Schrodgers, SHRM, SAGE, Sony, NuSkin, Booking.com and McCann Worldwide to name a few.

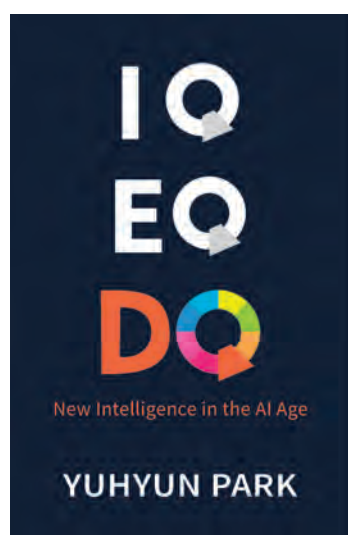
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Vivek has been profiled by the National Integrative Council of Singapore as an inspiration where his Singapore Story was shared on their YouTube channel garnering over 977,000 views.

He is seen as an Authority on the Millennial topic, having written the book, *Empowering Millennials: The Five Step Sequence to design a life of Fun, Freedom and Fortune*. Vivek has been invited on Primetime interviews to comment on reputable media channels such as Channel NewsAsia on the Millennial topic. He has also appeared in the documentary aired on Channel NewsAsia, named SLACKERS, SHOCKERS, SUITS & SUPERHEROES to explain the behaviours of this generation. Vivek has also been invited to engage in debates with CXOs in India on the topic, "Are Millennials overly stereotyped?"

Vivek has also been invited to share his insights on the young generation in Tamil educational shows that have aired nationally in Vasantham Central, such as Ethiroli and Neeyum Naanum. In his free time, Vivek works with youths at-risk to help them gain clarity and confidence to excel in life.



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Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954396</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>226 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## **IQ, EQ and DQ: New Intelligence in the AI age**

**Yuhyun Park**

### **Keyline**

Digital Intelligence – Global Standards for Digital Literacy, Skills, and Readiness

### **Description**

Do you know that 60% of children around the world have experienced at least one cyber-risk including cyber-bullying, game addiction, online sexual behaviours, and others? We call this consistent and high exposure to cyber-risks among children a "cyber-risk pandemic".

The current COVID-19 pandemic is reminiscent of the situation in Korea about 10 years ago. After the IMF economic crisis in Korea, the Korean government pushed digital transformation as a national agenda as a key economic growth driver. As much as it has brought innovation and technological advances, it has also brought various negative side effects including children's exposure to cyber-risks. Now, the COVID-19 pandemic is pushing the global society into rapid digitization. It is very likely that we will soon see the COVID-19 pandemic moving online and becoming a cyber-risk pandemic among children and vulnerable populations.

This is the 11th year since Park started out her first social impact initiative to protect children from online dangers in Korea. During the last 10 years, she learned that the child online safety issue is not a mere child protection problem. But it is a sustainable development issue of digital technology and related industries. And the solution cannot come from the angle of "protection" alone, rather it needs to come from that of "empowerment" of all stakeholders: children, families, schools, industries, and nations. It must be brought about by good education, proactive social infra-structures, and ethical businesses.

This book is written for the general public and written with the hope that it becomes a way to empower all stakeholders who are involved digital technology and education– basically everyone. As IQ directs the discussion on education and human capital development after the 2nd industrial revolution (IR), Park want to use DQ (Digital Intelligence) as a key thinking frame on how education/skilling in the digital age as the global society is fast moving into the 4th IR with rushed digitization.

The key premise of this book is that "technology is only meaningful when it enhances humanness". Moreover, DQ is all about the empowerment of individuals in the digital age to become "masters" of technology, rather than "slaves" to it.

### **Sales Points**

- Parents will be empowered to support their children to become ready in the AI age.
- It gives teachers a frame of thinking on how/what to teach children in the digital age.
- It presents a strong case for policy makers to not rush into digitization blindly and develop a comprehensive set of digital education/skilling strategies as part of national digital transformation agenda.
- It urges business leaders to think of new digital business opportunities in a more sustainable way as well as developing a holistic digital skilling strategy for their employees.

**Author Bio**

Dr. Yuhyun Park is the founder of the DQ Institute and a world-leading expert in digital skills and child online safety. She created the Digital Intelligence (DQ) concept and framework, which was endorsed by the OECD, IEEE Standards Association, and World Economic Forum in 2018 as the foundation to build global standards and a common framework for digital literacy, skills, and readiness. Dr. Park also developed the Child Online Safety Index, which is the world's first real-time metric tracker to help nations better understand their children's online safety status, and leads the #DQEveryChild initiative, which is a global digital citizenship movement that has empowered more than 1 million children in more than 80 countries to date. In addition, she serves in various global leadership positions related to digital economy and education, including as the International Lead for Digital Economy in the G20 Civil Society, head of the EQUALS ITU Digital Skills Coalition, and founder of the Coalition for Digital Intelligence. She has received numerous international awards, including recognition as a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, Ashoka Fellow, Eisenhower Fellow, and multiple UNESCO prizes. She co-authored the *Dictionary for Economics*, which is the most widely used dictionary for economics in Korea. Her academic experiences include serving as an adjunct professor at Yonsei University in Korea and as a director at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Dr Park completed her Ph.D. degree and post-doctoral studies in biostatistics at Harvard University.



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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954853</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/ Thriller, Suspense, Crime and Mystery</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>296 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## That Night: Four Friends. Twenty Years. One Haunting Secret.

**Nidhi Upadhyay**

### Keyline

What happens when an innocent prank goes horribly wrong?

### Description

Natasha, Riya, Anjali and Katherine were best friends in college - each different from the other yet inseparable - until that night.

It was the night that began with a bottle of whisky and a game of Ouija but ended with the death of Sania, their unlikeable hostel mate. The friends vowed never to discuss that fateful night, a pact that had kept their friendship and guilt dormant for the last twenty years.

But now, someone has begun to mess with them, threatening to reveal the truth that only Sania knew. Is it a hacker playing on their guilt or has Sania's ghost really returned to avenge her death?

As the faceless enemy closes in on them, the friends come together once again to recount what really happened that night. But when the story is retold by each of them, the pieces don't fit. Because none of them is telling the whole truth . . .

*That Night* is a dark, twisted tale of friendship and betrayal that draws you in and confounds you at every turn.

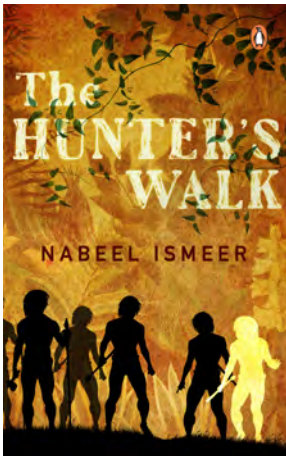
### Sales Points

- A psychological thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat.
- The multiracial protagonist, the atmospheric settings of the haunted locations and the twist ending makes this story a perfect read for fans of *In a Dark, Dark Wood* (Ruth Ware) and *Final Girls* (Riley Sager).
- The author was awarded a grant from the prestigious National Arts Council, Singapore, for the book.

### Author Bio

Nidhi Upadhyay is an engineer-turned-headhunter. For years, Nidhi spent her days matchmaking senior executives to their dream jobs and her nights reading thrillers, until her husband borderline bullied her into writing one. She lives in Singapore with her doting husband and two exceptionally loving but polar-opposite boys. *That Night* is her debut novel.





Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914079</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>304 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## THE HUNTER'S WALK

**Nabeel Ismeer**

### Keyline

A dark skin caveboy's world collapses when his fair skin brother is expelled from the tribe. Will they ever complete their rite of passage, the Hunter's Walk? Will they ever find its true meaning?

### Description

*The Hunter's Walk* is a stereotype busting prehistorical fictional novel about an artistic inventive caveboy's struggle to overcome discrimination and ice age climate change. All while preparing to complete his rite of passage, The Hunter's Walk.

Ghar, a dark skin caveboy, is trying to stop the discrimination against his fair skin brother, and the fair skins of the tribe. But then Das, a tribal elder expels the fair skins and later Ghar himself. With the help of Mai, a healer from a wolf tribe, he defeats his old tribe uniting the dark and fair skins, allowing them to complete the Hunter's Walk (A rite of passage only meant for dark skins).

At the end of the Hunter's Walk they end up at a massive rock face that has been carved into four faces, the Fathers of Zarda. The descriptions are supposed to lead the reader to believe this is Mount Rushmore (not 50,000 years in our past, but 50,000 years in our future. Not central Asia, but South Dakota.)

### Sales Points

- Readers will enjoy the retelling of racism that occurs. Ghar a dark skin born to a fair skin mother and Dun a fair skin born to a dark skin mother, become brothers of sorts when the tribe exchanges them to keep the dark skin purity intact. For first time, a boy has loved not out of need, but out of want. Ghar wants to be mates with the heroine, Mai, even though the tribe considers her infertile. When the tribe tries to expel Ghar and Mai, they come up with a way for each member to be heard, to vote. Their early democracy is the first time anything has been counted – democracy created counting.
- While the whole story talks about prehistoric characters in a prehistoric world of long-nose buffalos, the ending hints that these characters are actually in our future. This alludes to a viral idea well-loved them that civilization has fallen and humanity is starting all over again.
- Though the story is about tribes that are outside our timeline, their stories are ours, standing at the precipice of a major climate event, whether they will fall to division and exclusion, or will they stand together, join forces and dream a future even better than their ancestors thought possible.

### Author Bio

Nabeel Ismeer writes articles on climate change as part of his activism, but also to create a base of readers. His articles have appeared in various online and print magazine in the region. This is his first novel.

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SEA**LAND OF SAND AND SONG**  
- JOYCE CHUA

Cover to come soon...

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 22.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954150</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's and Young Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>264 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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**LAND OF SAND AND SONG****Joyce Chua****Keyline**

A relic of the gods. One girl's quest for revenge. A kingdom fracturing from within.

**Description**

Legend has it that a magical spring lies dormant in the heart of the Khuzar desert. Said to be a gift from the gods, the spring holds the cure to all mortal woes.

As mercenaries from everywhere try in vain to find the mystical spring, 17-year-old Desert Rose is on the run after her chieftain father is overthrown and captured by rebel clans. Now out for revenge, she sets out alone to the Oasis Capital to assassinate the person instigating the rebellion: the corrupt Emperor Zhao, who will stop at nothing to possess the elixir of life from the spring.

To infiltrate the Imperial Guard, Desert Rose must pass a series of trials to test her wit, mettle, and her loyalty. But the real test lies in navigating the cut-throat court politics with no ally but a rogue prince and a latent magic stirring in her – magic that can bring a kingdom to its knees or destroy her from within.

**Sales Points**

- It's got magical elements, a slow-burn romance, and vivid world-building.
- It features Asian (mainly Chinese and Mongolian) mythology and characters (no white-washing involved).
- It has a strong heroine and supporting female characters who are not portrayed in any way inferior or subservient to male ones. Plus, the main characters each have agency and their own agenda that conflict with one another's.

**Author Bio**

Joyce graduated from the National University of Singapore with a degree in English and her contemporary YA novel, *Lambs for Dinner*, was published by the Straits Times Press in 2013 as part of a nationwide competition. She lives in the perennially sunny island-city of Singapore, where she co-runs and publishes her short stories at Muse in Pocket, Pen in Hand and blogs at The Writes of Passage in between writing her next novel and dreaming about mythical worlds.



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Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 20.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914062</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/ Short-stories</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Racket and Other Stories

**Vicky Chong**

### Keyline

An exposure of the minuscule rebels trapped inside many of us who are trying to break out of conforming to conservative social norms, risking stigma and gossip.

### Description

This collection of short stories exposes the minuscule rebels trapped inside many of us - the obedient, law-abiding tenants - living in Singapore who are trying to break out of conforming to the country's conservative social norms, risking stigma and gossip. On one extreme, a minority of us have the courage to let the recalcitrant rebels take charge from the beginning in order to live as we wish. Others may require some external nudging to act, yet some may ultimately still retreat to the status quo, to a prescribed acceptable social behaviour, instead of risking any fracas.

*The evocative stories in Vicky Chong's debut collection give a nuanced look at how, beneath the racket of societal expectations, everyone is but dealing with their fears in their own ways. Deftly told with a careful balance of poignance and optimism, you'll be drawn in by the diverse cast of characters as they prevail, or fail, in forging their own paths.*

—Leslie W, author of the urban fantasy novel, *The Night of Legends*

*Vicky Chong's incisive debut lovingly examines so many of fiction's timeless themes—love, family, longing, doubt, boundaries and their transgressions, the individual versus the collective, as well as homes architectural, communal, and national. To our delight, these classic yearnings are given fresh form and nuance by this tirelessly inventive writer. You will keep hearing the insistent racket of these stories long after you set this fine collection down.*

—Professor Darryl Whetter, author of the cli-fi novel *Our Sands*

### Sales Points

- The stories are works of good literary fiction. They engage with their realistic narrative and characters which readers can identify with - the emotional conflict, story suspense, hypocrisy and flaws of human nature.
- The stories provide a diversity of experiences and voices, as well as being inclusive by dealing with different ethnic groups and sexual orientation.
- Vicky 'exposes' facets that are unseen and unheard of behind seemingly mundane lives in Singapore, leading readers to think about our place in the society and our perception of self.

### Author Bio

Vicky Chong graduated with Master of Arts - Creative Writing from Goldsmiths' College, University of London, in September 2018. Her works have been published in *Readers' Digest*, *The Graduate* and *Singapore Marketer*. Her creative non-fiction stories were published in two anthologies, *My Story, My Life* and *Feast!* by Singapore's National Library Board. Her short story, *Chun Kia*, was one of the ten selected for 2017 George Town literary Festival Fringe Publication *The Zine*. Short story *The Uber Driver* won third prize in the 2018 Nick Joaquin Literary Awards Asia-Pacific. Her 200-word short story was published in *The Sunday Times* on 10 February 2019 in celebration of Valentine's Day. Short story *Harvey Crescent* was published in *Business Mirror*, Philippines, on 24 February 2019, and *Camel's Tears* on 28 April 2019.

Two short stories published in November 2020 were *Marriage Lessons* in the anthology *Letter to my Son*, and *My Girl in Singapore* in the anthology *A View of Stars*.

**Orders to:** customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg



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Price	<b>SGD 26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954242</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Non Fiction/ Biography and Autobiography</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 Pages + 16 pp inserts</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Beyond Storms and Stars – A Memoir

### Noeleen Heyzer

#### Keyline

The story of how a young girl growing up amidst adversity in post-war Singapore became a trailblazer of women's global leadership at the United Nations.

#### Description

How did a young girl who rose from underprivileged circumstances in post-war Singapore become a trailblazer of women's global leadership at the United Nations? Noeleen Heyzer was the first woman from outside North America to be appointed as Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the first woman Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). In these memoirs, Noeleen Heyzer reflects on her remarkable journey — from the challenges of her childhood and youth, her intellectual development at the University of Singapore and the University of Cambridge, to her groundbreaking work on women's empowerment and her meteoric rise to the position of Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. It is a book that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the courage of individuals, communities, and societies to transform structures of discrimination and injustice.

#### Sales Points

- This book is about women's leadership in action. It identifies critical struggles of our contemporary world and deals with difficult questions: How can power be differently accessed and exercised to integrate respect and dignity into everyday life? How can women and those at the margins be empowered to contribute their insights and skills to co-create a more humane future?
- It is a book about living fearlessly — summoning the courage to believe that different realities are possible even in the face of immense adversity; living purposefully and taking risks to create change.
- This book offers rare insights into the inner workings of multilateral organisations and the intense negotiations that take place in the corridors of power at the United Nations. It tells a story of how it is possible to transform global institutions from within and make them responsive to the needs and priorities of women around the world.

#### Author bio

Noeleen Heyzer was an Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and the highest ranking Singaporean in the United Nations (2007–2015). She was the first woman to serve as the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since its founding in 1947. Under her leadership (2007–2014), the commission focused on regional cooperation for a more resilient Asia-Pacific, founded on shared prosperity, social equity, and sustainable development. She was at the forefront of many innovations including for regional disaster preparedness, inclusive socio-economic policies, sustainable agriculture and urbanization, energy security and regional connectivity.

She was the first Executive Director from outside North America to lead the United Nations Development Fund for Women. She was widely recognized for her pivotal role in the Security Council's formulation and implementation of the landmark Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and undertook extensive missions to conflict-affected countries worldwide. She was also the UNSG's Special Adviser for Timor-Leste, working to support peace-building, state-building, and sustainable development.

She holds a BA (Upper Hons) and a MSc from Singapore University, a PhD from Cambridge University, and has received numerous international awards for leadership including the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal (2004).

# The Stories Female Journalists Tell

Reta Lee

The number of women in media professions may have increased in recent years, but there is still a gender imbalance and lack of diversity in newsrooms, film sets, and so forth. *The Stories Female Journalists Tell* is a compilation of stories from female journalists across Southeast Asia who have been on the ground reporting and seeing things from a different perspective and emotive lens.

## THE PITCH

- The narratives will be led by an all-female journalist lot, in celebrating their achievements and work while putting the spotlight on their role in reporting news. These women come from varied cultural backgrounds, who are currently based in Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Cambodia.
- Some of the most important news events touched here are the Rohingya crisis, to the first 24 hours of reporting on the missing MH370 and recounting the Bersih rally in Malaysia. Other important essays include dealing with imposter syndrome and turning a harasser call into a story.
- On top of celebrating their strength and empowerment, this collection of essays with a Southeast Asia point-of-view will add to the growing titles of books written with 'the female gaze' such as *Vanity Fair's Women on Women* and *Our Women on the Ground: Essays by Arab Women Reporting from the Arab World*.

## THE BOOK

30 female journalists in Southeast Asia share their personal experiences in essays spanning politics, culture, travel, human interest and lifestyle.

In these insightful and compelling essays, the former and current journalists take us through the journey as a woman covering news in male-dominant newsroom culture while keeping eyes on the ground. *The Stories Female Journalists Tell* is an inspiring collection of essays that celebrates kinships, camaraderie and strength, while highlighting our most important and interesting history in events and news.

Themes

1. Politics: The essays reflect events that happened in a local environment while providing balanced coverage of key organisations and political events.
2. Life & Style: The essays in this volume foreground the role that



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## THE STORIES FEMALE JOURNALISTS TELL

- Edited by Reta Lee

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Pub Date: 16 November 2021

ISBN: 9789814914437 / 9814914436

Price: SGD28.90

Subject: Literary Essays

Format: 216mm x 135mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 240 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814914437

BIC Code: DNF

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 23 July 2021



life & style writers and editors played in reporting news while staying grounded in an image-obsessed world.

3. Human Interest: The human interest essays here focus on details that resonate emotionally with the readers, and sometimes can be described as 'getting the story behind the story' or 'putting a face on the news.'

4. Culture: The essays discuss a particular belief or values of a particular group of people at a particular time.

5. Travel: The essays here are part travelogue, part literature, which can double up as a historic travel narrative.

## THE AUTHOR

Reta Lee is currently working as an editor-in-chief for an online media brand and has previously written for many Malaysian, Singaporean and International publications.

Reta's first foray in publishing began in 2006 after university, when she was writing for two entertainment magazines, *hot* and *HELLO!* in Malaysia, covering both lifestyle and entertainment beats (both magazines have since ceased). Then, she rode the digital wave in 2009 onwards, when she wrote for MSN and Business Insider. As an entertainment journalist by heart - she's interviewed everyone from Lady Gaga, to James Marsden, Sophie Turner, John Lithgow and Susan Downey. She is also the author of a book, *#thatPRStory*.

When Reta is not writing, she finds time to moderate panel sessions at the previous Millennial 20/20 Summit in 2016 and 2017, and Fashion Tech Summit as part of Singapore Fashion Week in 2017.

She also loves catching up on drama series, practising yoga, reading, travelling the world and dabbles in analog photography.

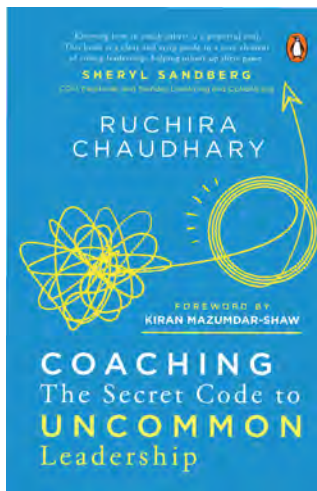
She lives in Singapore with her partner and two cats.



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Penguin Business

Penguin Random House SEA

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Price	<b>SGD 28.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954860</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Management: Leadership &amp; Motivation, Business &amp; Management</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>432 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore and India</b>
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## Coaching: The Secret Code to Uncommon Leadership

### Ruchira Chaudhary

#### Keyline

Coaching is the secret to uncommon leadership

#### Description

This book lucidly illustrates how a leader can bring out the very best in people by coaching them, and how coaching can unleash creativity as well as innovation while inspiring teams to play to their potential. It also examines how coaching helps leaders maintain a fine balance between managing and guiding, and between appraising and supporting their teammates. While many excellent books have been written about leadership, talent and coaching, this is a rare book that stands boldly at the intersection of leadership and coaching.

This is a book for our times. Businesses are facing a new reality, characterized by a VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world. This new reality has forced organizations to depart from conventional command-and-control practices to a completely new model - a model in which leaders support and guide, rather than instruct and control, their team members.

Exploring some of the key ingredients of impactful leadership, *Coaching* offers tips and tricks, backed by research and incisive insights, on how to become an effective leader-coach. Peppered with interesting anecdotes and analogies, drawn from sports, performing arts and other walks of life, the book is a breezy read. Interviews with corporate leaders and academics further enrich the narrative. Guaranteed to make for a very interesting read, the book will be useful to leaders, aspiring leaders and especially those that wish to transition from being just good leaders to extraordinary ones.

#### Quotes

'Knowing how to coach others is a powerful tool. Ruchira Chaudhary's book *Coaching: The Secret Code to Uncommon Leadership* is a clear and crisp guide to a core element of strong leadership: helping others up their game.'

- Sheryl Sandberg, COO of Facebook, and Founder of LeanIn.Org and OptionB.Org, and author of international bestseller *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*

'Today's digitally oriented organisations operate at high speed and complexity - they need leaders who are coaches, not controllers. These leaders in turn have the responsibility of building future-ready leaders who are agile and nimble. A leader needs to encourage his or her team to constantly innovate, think out of the box and deliver transformative change. This book does a great job of illustrating how the best leaders do that through coaching. A timely read for anyone wishing to transition from being a manager to a leader or from being a good leader to a great one.'

- Nandan Nilekani, Chairman and Co-Founder Infosys, and Founding Chairman, UIDAI (Aadhaar)

'At Microsoft, our culture is grounded in a growth mindset: the belief that everyone has tremendous potential to improve and grow. And what we've found is that coaching sits at the foundation of empowering each person to become a successful leader, which is why we included coaching as one of the three core attributes in our management excellence framework - Model, Coach, Care. This book helps unlock the secrets of coaching in a thoughtful collection of learnings, insights and case studies that will guide the leaders of today on how to empower the leaders of tomorrow.'

- Kathleen Hogan, Chief People Officer, Microsoft



'Real leadership is not just about building a big empire or achieving millions in revenue - its also about the journey and the teams we build along the way. How you develop your people, arm them with opportunities to grow, to flourish and help them discover their own path. Ruchira's book describes this facet in great detail and how leadership today is about asking -not telling others what to do. Coaching helps leaders elevate not just their teams but also themselves as it makes them more capable, creative, confident and self-aware. A wonderful business book from an ex-TCS colleague.'

- S. Ramadorai, former CEO and MD Tata Consultancy Services, and former advisor to the Prime Minister of India for the National Council on Skill Development

'The market is full of great books on leadership, talent and coaching, but this book is different. With deep insights and fascinating anecdotes, Ruchira Chaudhary builds a powerful business case for the leader-coach, articulating that one cannot be a great leader, without being a great coach.'

- Sydney Finkelstein, professor at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, bestselling author of Superbosses, and host of the podcast, The Sydcast

'Read this, then Lead this! This book provides a powerful framing of leadership as coaching. Then the book goes beyond that - to how you can embed a coaching culture throughout your organization. This is exactly what today's firms and employees need from our leaders. With this wonderful book, my great student Ruchira becomes my teacher.'

- Michael Gibbs, Clinical Professor of Economics, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business and co-author of the textbook Personnel Economics in Practice

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### Sales Points

- A Must Read for Leaders and those Aspiring to be Leaders
- First of its kind of a book on coaching-emphasizing leader as coach
- Includes anecdotes, analogies and real-life case studies drawn from sports, performing arts and other walks of life
- Includes interviews with corporate leaders and academics
- A practical guide to becoming a better leader
- Explains how coaching differentiates a great leader from an ordinary one

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### Author Bio

An alumna of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Ruchira Chaudhary straddles the corporate and academic worlds - she is a leading executive coach, adjunct faculty at several top tier business schools and runs a boutique consulting firm focused on organizational strategy solutions. Ruchira's diverse and eclectic background in mergers & acquisitions, organizational effectiveness and strategy execution, coupled with two decades of experience in emerging markets in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, helps her grasp challenging people issues.

During her corporate career, Ruchira held leadership roles in Medtronic and AIG in Singapore, Qatar Telecom (now Ooredoo) in Qatar and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in India. Her consulting repertoire spans multinationals, government agencies and leading local businesses across industries. Ruchira teaches and frequently coaches MBA students, and senior business executives as affiliate faculty at several business schools-SMU, NUS and IMD in Singapore, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business in Asia and most recently, London Business School.

Ruchira frequently gets featured in and writes for leading business journals. She has authored a series of highly acclaimed leadership and coaching articles for the Mint and also writes a regular column for them. Ruchira earned a bachelor's degree in Economics (Honours) from the University of Delhi, a master's in communications management and an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business with a concentration in strategy. She divides her time between Singapore and India.

# The Macanese Pro-Wrestler's Cookbook

Barrie Sherwood

**Macau, a redolent, overcrowded hive of faded Portuguese culture, glossy American casinos, triad underworld, and overarching Chinese governance. It's what hapless, lovelorn Zeke Oliveira calls Home. But when his best friend is murdered, Zeke confronts the systems of money, race, and class that are tearing his home apart.**

**This is a steely, unfettered portrait of a man coming to terms with the rootlessness of life at the epicenter of 21st Century Asia. This is a steely, unfettered portrait of a man coming to terms with the rootlessness of life at the epicenter of 21st Century Asia.**

## THE PITCH

- Thrillers set in Asia are targeted in a particular way at a clearly defined readership. The attraction of the books lies in the geographical location, providing a window into an intriguing place; in the high-tempo narrative of the thriller genre; and in the quirky but often violent anti-hero.
- Sherwood's character-building is meticulous, but the countries themselves are a large part of the attraction. The characters are the best possible guide to every side of the countries in the novels, and much of the humour and interest he generates is derived from his authoritative familiarity with and thorough research of the various places. Through the novel, Sherwood gives the reader immersion in a city the tourist never sees.
- It is a picaresque thriller set in Asia, addresses contemporary social problems (especially those created or exacerbated by criminal elements) and dramatizes themes of nationhood vs selfhood, belonging, honest governance.
- The hero adds a soft element to the fast paced and hard hitting thrillers. He is deeply in love, but finds the demonstration of that love somehow restricted or curtailed, either by outward forces or his own questionable decision-making. Each story is a vanquishing of some exterior evil, but also, ultimately, a re-prioritizing of his own interior values.



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## The Macanese Pro-Wrestler's Cookbook

- Barrie Sherwood

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 16 November 2021

ISBN: 9789814914093 / 9814914096

Price: SGD24.90

Subject: Thriller / Suspense

Format: 216mm x 135mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 304 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814914093

BIC Code: FH

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 13 July 2021

## THE BOOK

Macau, that redolent, overcrowded hive of faded Portuguese culture, glossy American casinos, and overarching Mainland governance is what hapless, lovelorn Zeke Oliveira calls home. An eccentric himself, for the most part he's at ease with the city's eccentricities, but when his best friend is murdered Zeke goes on a search for those responsible, a search that takes him into an undercurrent of crime beneath the city that he never knew existed. An adventure, a social commentary and an unconventional cookbook, *The Macanese Pro-Wrestler's Cookbook* is ultimately the portrait of a man struggling to find a balance between the cultural identity he has inherited and his own individual destiny.

## THE AUTHOR

Barrie Sherwood was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Canada. His previous works include the novels *The Pillow Book of Lady Kasa* and *Speed of Lightness*, and a collection of short stories, *The Angel Tiger*. He lives in Singapore.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Pillow Book of Lady Kasa* (DC Books, Montreal, 2000), *Escape from Amsterdam* (Granta Books, London, 2007; St Martin's Minotaur, New York, 2008) and *The Angel Tiger and Other Stories* (Epigram Books, Singapore, 2019)



[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)



# Softer Voices

Reuben Peter

**A sweeping story of love, war and a migrant's desperate struggle to find a home for his restless heart, set against the ornate backdrop of the excess and luxury of the bustling, ecstatic colonial outpost of Singapore.**

## THE PITCH

- There are unique, hitherto unheard voices represented in this story, which cast a different light on subject matter previously explored elsewhere.

The history and culture of Singapore present a unique mix of its constituent parts. It is this strange, syncretic combination of Malay, Indian and Chinese which makes Singapore one of the few places which retains the last vestiges of the 'mystery of the orient'. So little is known of our history that much of it remains foreign even to Singaporeans.

*Crazy Rich Asians* and many other works published in or about Singapore, often tell their stories from a very distinct perspective - that of an ethnic Chinese person. By contrast, this story comes from the perspective of a category of persons whose voices have yet to be adequately explored in popular literature. Principally, that of well-to-do, privileged persons in 1930s Singapore who are by and large minorities - wealthy Indians and Malays, and a bisexual Chinese male.

These fresh perspectives cast a different light on stories already explored by other historical novels set in Singapore during World War II. These unique points of view will catch the eye of the casual reader.

- It is an old-fashioned romp: a tale of adventure in wartime. This is an accessible adventure story which the average reader will be interested to pick up. Perhaps, the sort of person who might enjoy F. Scott Fitzgerald, and who reads books to decompress after a hard day's work or on a Sunday afternoon. For that reason, the story is told as a war-time adventure with thrilling elements of battle, espionage, love and loss. There are also many historical and literary allusions peppered into the book, sometimes on fairly arcane matters, which will encourage the reader to do an internet search or two and to learn a little more about history or culture. The story spans several locations: England, India and Singapore. In painting a faithful picture, painstaking research was done on early 20th century Singapore, and in particular on the Indian National Army. In an attempt to flesh out the various locales, the author adopted a specific writing style allows the story to be 'tasted'. The result is a piece of richly described, sensuous writing which transports the reader to another world.



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Random House  
SEA

## SOFTER VOICES

- Reuben Peter

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 19 October 2021

ISBN: 9789814954068 / 9814954063

Price: SGD26.90

Subject: Historical Fiction

Format: 234mm x 153mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 292 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954068

BIC Code: FV

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 30 June 2021



- It covers universal themes that will ring true with most readers. The central themes of the book are matters which impact all of us -- identity, sin or guilt and existential restlessness. Focusing in on the issue of identity, most Asians are products of at least two influences. The encroachment of Western ideals and culture into our lives has touched and marked many of us. Asian readers will relate to the push and pull between these two parts of ourselves - struggling to reconcile one with the other. The ideas of sin and guilt are equally universal. The desperate longing of the human heart to change for the better is a feeling which most people encounter in their lives. As to restlessness, so many of us also understand the feeling of being an émigré. That feeling of never being fully comfortable in a place and the desire to change things about oneself or the place where one lives.
- 

## THE BOOK

Philip Montfort is a man of contradictions. He is an Anglo-Indian born in British India and torn between his Part-Caucasian heritage and his Indian identity. Born into a vanishing aristocratic family with fading fortunes, his life is a struggle to reconcile his circumstances with his desires and to render a true account of himself. He is irreligious but a seeker of truth and authenticity. After studying law at Cambridge, and being denied a place in both England and India, he seeks instead to make life anew in the Colonies - specifically in the bustling, ecstatic British outpost of Singapore.

There, he is drawn into the orbit of young, privileged intellectuals like himself who seek truth just as he does, while gorging and stupefying themselves with layers of luxury. They call themselves the Asiatic Club and commission themselves to doing civic works in the lead up to the War. More secretive however are their preparations to form a stay-behind auxiliary in the event that Singapore is occupied.

When War reaches Singapore in the early forties, the excess is stripped away and each member of this exclusive coterie is forced to confront their true selves as they make sacrifices and compromises of character. While fighting as a reserve officer in the British Indian Army's III Corps, Philip is captured as a prisoner-of-war. Thereafter, he is convinced to join the Axis-collaborationist Indian National Army under its mercurial but brilliant leader, Subhas Chandra Bose.

## THE AUTHOR

R. G. Peter was born in Singapore in 1988. He studied at the Anglo-Chinese School and Raffles Junior College before reading law at the University of Cambridge. He is a practicing lawyer who focuses on contentious construction litigation before the Singapore Courts. His literary influences include Evelyn Waugh, Eileen Chang, Graham Greene, Jack Kerouac and R. K. Narayan.



# She Never Looks Quite Back

Mallika Naguran

**Stories about choice, strength, love and women with an unquenchable thirst for life**

## THE PITCH

- The stories are very human and told with sympathy. They concern human's fragility and are made memorable through a lyrical style of writing and metaphoric rendition. They are also entertaining.
- The stories are timeless, yet prick many of today's issues. Environmental, social and economic themes are given new takes and perspectives. The tales provide a voice for the powerless as well. Climate change, a topical issue, is subtly explored in a couple of the stories.
- Southeast Asia provides the setting for nearly all of the storylines. The stories draw upon the diverse cultures and societal structures within the Singapore and Malaysia contexts predominantly. The stories contribute to the fast-growing pool of Asian literature, and voice.

## THE BOOK

Readers of the short stories will be taken from fast-transforming concrete Singapore, wild Malaysian forests to rough African seas through waves of episodes and narratives that women can readily identify with. These are triggered by life changing events that elicit these emotions or state of mind: loss, regret, longing, lust, love, sensuality, infidelity, hope, courage, mysticism, wildness, social unrest, refuge seeking and more. The stories depict the multifarious social fabric of Singapore and Malaysia, aspects of humanity, the relevance of the environment and climate change on our everyday lives. No matter what the ordeal, the women in these stories are never totally fazed by life's thrashings.

*Bird Watching* captures a woman's panic from a perceived threat in Cameron Highlands, and upon fleeing, plunges into the depths of her existential being that is at the mercy of nature. *The Liquid Goalie* tells the arduous struggle of a young Gambian sportswoman on a refugee boat headed for Europe—a fictionalised true story. *Ode to Joy* brings back a forgotten tune and along with it the scars of surviving the Japanese Occupation in Singapore. *A Bar Joke* and *Alone They Were* reveal a woman's internal conflicts as she fights her own demons to embrace new beginnings. Readers will appreciate the nostalgic value of *Five Cents* in the shoes of a female cabbie that has been left behind Singapore's miracle economic progress. *Weep Me a River*, *Stuck in a Moment* and *Look at the Sky* capture the deep sorrow and regret that often come with relationships and life's cruel dealings. A housewife reminisces the influences of people behind the spices she puts together in *The Art of Making An*



Penguin  
Random House  
SEA

## SHE NEVER LOOKS QUITE BACK

- Mallika Naguran

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 14 December 2021

ISBN: 9789814954037 / 9814954039

Price: SGD20.90

Subject: Short Stories

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 192 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954037

BIC Code: FYB

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 14 July 2021

*Authentic South Indian Chicken Curry (But Not on April Fool's Day).*  
*The Swirl* functions as a mystical epilogue of what it is for a woman to never look back even in the most extraordinary circumstance... because of women's unquenchable thirst for the unknown.  
*She Never Looks Quite Back* is written by a woman for women. And for men who adore women! With the exception of one (*Witches and Wishes*), all short stories have been written from women's perspectives.

## THE AUTHOR

Mallika Naguran spends her free time writing fiction for adults and children. Born in Singapore, Naguran began crafting short stories during college where she studied English Literature and over time built up a compilation of short stories, which she hopes to publish as a book for adults. Naguran has a BA in English and English Literature (1988) and an MSc in Environmental Management (2013), both from the National University of Singapore. Professionally, Naguran is an environmental non-fiction writer and runs an online publication called Gaia Discovery ([www.gaiadiscovery.com](http://www.gaiadiscovery.com)). Naguran is passionate about nature and the environment, wildlife and musical instruments. She has two grown up children and often heads far South to beat the tropical Singapore heat and to track down the Tasmanian devil.



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# Five Energies of Horrible Bosses... And How Not to Become One

Marcel Daane

**Supercharge the power of your mind and body  
for sustained success and influence in  
business, leadership, and life.**

## THE PITCH

- While most leadership books and accompanying leadership assessments are based on Western Management Philosophies, Five Postures of Horrible Bosses perfectly blends Asian and Western Philosophies in combination with Physical Tai-Chi Exercises to create a holistic tool that the world has never yet seen before.
- Readers will learn how to use the tools in this book to not only become a better boss, but more importantly, maximize their capacity to be more successful in business, relationships, and in life.
- It is backed by Neuroscience and other leadership research and literature.

## THE BOOK

'The fundamental difference between a great boss and a horrible boss is how they project their energy onto others. Everything else is born from that energy'

*Five Energies of Horrible Bosses...And How Not To Become One* is a Leadership Book like you have never read before. This book offers a holistic framework using a powerful blend of Ancient Asian Energy Practices and Modern Western Science that helps leaders and teams master their energy projection for better influence, connectedness, communication, and collaboration.

Born from an early adult life of repeated failures, managing clinical depression, alcoholism, and finally becoming a horrible boss himself, Marcel Daane tells a compelling story how he finally found direction through his practice of Martial Arts, combined with Meditation and Energy Healing.

Citing real-life examples while working with leaders and teams as a Professional Certified Coach and Neuroscientist, Marcel shares his powerful system that not only helps you assess for yourself whether the type of energy you are generating and projecting is serving you as a leader or boss, but it also teaches you how to become a master of all five energies so you can ensure you will never ever become a horrible boss yourself.

## THE AUTHOR



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**FIVE ENERGIES OF  
HORRIBLE BOSSES...  
AND HOW NOT TO  
BECOME ONE**

- Marcel Daane

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 19 October 2021

ISBN: 9789814954648 / 9814954640

Price: SGD29.90

Subject: **Management: Leadership & Motivation**

Format: **216mm x 135mm**

Binding: **Paperback**

Extent: **264 pages**

Territory: **World**

Bar Code: **9789814954648**

BIC Code: **KJMB**

Web Address: **www.penguin.sg**

AI Last Updated: **30 June 2021**

A recipient of multiple leadership coaching awards and voted 2020 Executive Coach of the Year by Singapore Prestige Brands, Marcel Daane is a thought leader who believes that if we want different results in life, we need to possess the capacity to do things differently.

A Mind-Body Leadership, Life- and Executive Coach, Marcel is considered one of the world's authorities in mind-body leadership, a combination of mindfulness and body-awareness to inspire authenticity, openness and trust in leadership, strategy, teamwork, change-management, and communication. He is the author of his critically acclaimed book and App called: *Headstrong Performance* and is a renowned neuroscience and leadership researcher exploring the link between physical and mental wellness and their impact on leadership and performance capacity in individuals, teams, and organizations.

Marcel is a life-long practitioner of Martial Arts and is the son of a celebrated Political Activist who taught him early on that life has greater meaning when we are of service to others rather than merely to ourselves. This value shines through in everything Marcel has done in his 30-year professional evolution ranging from serving in the military, to developing elite athletes, coaching chronically ill patients, conducting ground-breaking neuro-leadership research, and in his executive coaching work transforming today's top managers into tomorrow's top leaders.

In his free time, Marcel volunteers as a Mental Health & Wellness advocate supporting professionals struggling with mental wellness challenges and loves to spend quality family time traveling with his wife, Ursula, and Daughter, Kilani.

Marcel holds a post graduate degree in the Neuroscience of Leadership from Middlesex University an Undergraduate Degree in Complementary Medicine from Charles Sturt University coupled with advanced certifications in Executive Coaching, Fitness, and Sports Performance.





# Accelerating Women

## The Key to Growth and Innovation

Duncan Neil Hewett

**The source of all innovation in any organisation is its people, the best and highest contributor to sustained performance comes from *Accelerating Women*.**

### THE PITCH

- Today in this enlightened world we are seeing an unprecedented change in technology, human interaction (Covid & post Covid), nationalism, improved rates of education, reduced numbers of people living below the poverty line and for a substantial amount of the population, an improvement in the quality of life. How come, with all these changes, we have made so little progress getting the workforce to reflect society, or even make substantial leaps forward with women in leadership roles, or even consistent participation in the workforce at all levels (women represent a much higher proportion in low paid roles). We still see in most industries and roles are still languishing in the 10-20% participation by women in the workforce and in leadership roles in many companies is in low single digits. The world has failed women, by simply not doing enough to make a difference to get women into leadership roles.
- The systemic change is slow, now as you can see below, though there have been some encouraging signs in 2019. However, in the last 15 years, there was only a 10% change, from 19% to 29% and statistically we need to see whether 2019's great improvement is a sustained change. The book does share how we can reach the 'tipping point' where women are no longer a minority and we can achieve a sustainable change.
- The book will help to achieve a sustainable change by creating more advocates, more organisations engaged in making a difference, more mentors to help, more understanding of what is needed to make a difference.

### THE BOOK

The greatest source of innovation in any organisation is its people, and one of the highest contributors to achieving sustained performance comes from *Accelerating Women*. This means leaders need to be committed to a sustained change to support, coach, mentor, listen and sponsor women every day. This is #1 issue holding organisations back from greater success in their business. Society is 50% women, yet it's rare to find organisations with even 30% participation in management. So you're missing 30% of the talent pool!!!

So, this book is about tools, approaches and real experiences to help you, as a manager/leader to create a workplace that Women want to join and contribute to. It will help you attract talented women



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## ACCELERATING WOMEN The Key to Growth and Innovation

- Duncan Neil Hewett

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 23 November 2021

ISBN: 9789815017182 / 9815017187

Price: SGD26.90

Subject: **Management: Leadership & Motivation**

Format: **198mm x 129mm**

Binding: **Paperback**

Extent: **240 pages**

Territory: **World**

Bar Code: **9789815017182**

BIC Code: **KJMB**

Web Address: **www.penguin.sg**

AI Last Updated: 22 July 2021

and retain them, helping your team grow and innovate.

The book into 4 key parts:

Self - what you can personally do to support change

Leaders - what do you need to do with the leaders

Organisation - what can you do to sustain a broader change

Community - what can you do to facilitate a change in the community

This is written for business leaders with real stories that make it easy to understand what to change. The book is designed to help every manager and leader to change the way they operate, especially men in leadership roles on how to lead differently and make a real difference on gender diversity. Accelerating Women, is a journey without a finish line but is the most rewarding investment you will ever make.

## THE AUTHOR

Duncan Hewett is an industry champion for the representation of women in business and technology. He is focused on driving actionable results for gender diversity in the workplace and has consistently driven acceleration for women across leadership levels. Duncan is currently the Senior VP and General Manager for VMware's business in Asia Pacific & Japan and has previously led IBM's Asia Pacific software business.

With a passion for driving greater participation of women in the workforce, Duncan developed VMinclusion Taara, a program that VMware leverages to help women upskill and regain the confidence to back work in the technology sector in India. More than 11,000 women have benefitted through the program so far, and over 1500 have returned to work. The program has been awarded by 'Women Leading Change Awards 2020 for Asia Pacific', India's reputed Economic Times' ET Now - CSR Program of the Year 2019, JobsForHer's - Top 20 Most Innovative Practices Women Returnee Programs and Zinnov VMware India's Inclusion & Diversity Award.

Duncan's philosophy on diversity takes an inside out approach by equipping women to succeed, helping with skills, practical tools to navigate the corporate world and help build their confidence. He believes this turns them into lifelong athletes in the workforce and allows them to forge their chosen path. An advocate for mentoring, Duncan mentors more than 30 women today. His vision for the workplace is to be representative of society, which is 50:50 participation. As he says, "If it is not, we have work to do."



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# A Nation's Disgrace: Singapore's Shocking Scandals

Balvinder Sandhu

**The stories behind the bombshell cases that rocked the country**

## THE PITCH

- From podcasts to Netflix series, true crime has gripped our collective interests in recent years so this is a chance for book lovers in Singapore to be reminded of the crimes that scandalised our nation.
- It's a comprehensive summary of the crimes in Singapore that grabbed the headlines (and our interests) over the years - even some that we might have forgotten.
- It's a 'juicy' look at cases that people in Singapore were scandalised by, while always sticking to the facts and never taking the 'low-brow' route.

## THE BOOK

Singapore is often known as a 'clean' country and its citizens 'law-abiding'. However, every once in a while, the island has been shocked by an incident or a crime so unexpected and shocking, it grabs headlines and piques the interest of locals and international press alike.

Spanning across all kinds of crimes, this collection has one thing in common - shock value. Cases covered in the book include high-profile ones like the NKF scandal, the City Harvest Church debacle, Singapore's most-wanted terrorist, Mas Selamat, and how one man in Singapore - Nick Leeson - brought down one of the UK's oldest financial institutions, Barings Bank. Plus, there are a few shocking murders thrown in too.

This book is a collection for anyone interested in Singapore society, law and history, to find out more about how these cases were discovered, the law-enforcement processes that followed and what happened to the offenders after the cases ended.

## THE AUTHOR

Balvinder Sandhu has been a part of Singapore's publishing scene for over 20 years now. She started her career writing for newspapers, then moved on to magazines and, eventually, websites. Her career as a writer and editor has seen her take on topics in the spheres of lifestyle, entertainment, travel, health, parenting and women's issues. In recent years, she has also created content for various clients. She is also the author of three books published in Singapore - *Financial Fraud* (2013), *Foreigners Behaving Badly* (2013) and *Sex Crimes* (2014) - which tackled crimes in Singapore that fit the theme of each book.



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**A NATION'S  
DISGRACE:  
Singapore's Shocking  
Scandals**

- Balvinder Sandhu

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 14 December 2021

ISBN: 9789814954716 / 9814954713

Price: SGD24.90

Subject: True Crime

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 224 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954716

BIC Code: BTC

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 14 July 2021

# Depth of Field: From Within the Looking Glass- Creative Exercises Towards Self-Care

Desmond Kon

**This is a contemplative space to understand your inner self. Dip into these creative exercises that engage and inspire. Open your heart into greater self-discovery and self-care.**

## THE PITCH

- *Depth of Field* is that important book that helps readers greater understand their inner selves. In a quickly changing world, people find themselves increasingly alienated, isolated, anxious, even distressed. There is a deep need to discover for oneself what offers deepest meaning to one's own life.
- *Depth of Field* is visually and conceptually fascinating. It engages and inspires, rather than preaches. The brief exercises and captivating illustrations speak to the rapid reader these days, who might admit to having shorter attention spans. It appeals to the everyperson.
- *Depth of Field* utilises well-loved fables within the Aesop tradition. Both popular and remote fables are used, to generate reader interest. The fables offer a narrative platform for the reader to bounce off his or her own ruminations, to launch their personalised self-discovery.
- *Depth of Field* deftly utilises deeply established psychological therapeutic techniques to help readers help themselves. Readers may engage with the exercises in complete privacy and confidentiality. Through greater self-inquiry comes greater self-awareness, and thereby greater self-care.
- *Depth of Field* lies squarely in the self-help and activity book categories, both of which have proved very successful in recent years.

## THE BOOK

*Depth of Field*, deftly combines the self-help book with the activity book. Prefaced by epigraphs from Freud, Jung and Lacan, this book comprises 37 creative exercises, which may also be read as prompts or riddles. Accompanied with illustrations for ekphrastic inspiration, this book premises its ethos on the idea of writing as witness, investigating how people engage with their personal history through writing, and render particular experiences through the fine act of deeply felt writing.

The collaborative engagement approaches writing as a powerful



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## DEPTH OF FIELD:

From Within the  
Looking Glass-  
Creative Exercises  
Towards Self-Care

- Desmond Kon

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 21 December 2021

ISBN: 9789814954662 / 9814954667

Price: SGD15.90

Subject: Mind, Body, Spirit

Format: 234mm x 153mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 96 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954662

BIC Code: VX

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 14 July 2021

means of healing, in excavating buried emotions and expressing them in such purposeful intimation. *Depth of Field* excellently spans a wide-ranging demographic of reader, from the adolescent to young adult, mature reader to retired elderly. The exercises work with such thoughtful complexity, so much so that they come across at once accessible and intellectual. These are easy to read, yet compelling in their introspective scope.

*Depth of Field*, a guided journal is also a reminiscent of activity books during childhood, filled with games and puzzles that encourage meaningful, self-initiated activities. In the same manner in which such books kept us occupied and entertained, *Depth of Field* is meant to be immersive, allowing readers to interact with the various prompts. Each prompt helps the reader to explore some aspect of the self, mining deep memories, emotions and values. Through the fine process of writing-this can cross genres to include nonfiction, poetry and fiction-readers reacquaint with their inner selves, developing a deeper sense of where they are in their life journey.

## THE AUTHOR

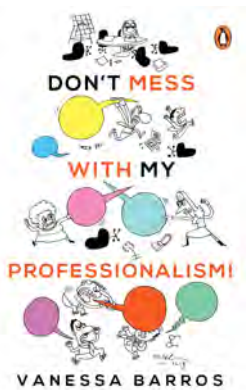
Desmond Kon is the author of an epistolary novel, a quasi-memoir, two lyric essay monographs, four hybrid works, and nine poetry collections. A former journalist, he has edited more than twenty books and co-produced three audio books, several pro bono for non-profit organizations.

Trained in book publishing at Stanford University, Desmond studied sociology and mass communication at the National University of Singapore, and later received his Masters in theology (world religions) from Harvard University and Masters in fine arts (creative writing) from the University of Notre Dame.

In addition to grants from the National Arts Council and Singapore International Foundation, Desmond has enjoyed literary appointments at the Notre Dame Poetry Fellowship, NAC Writer-in-the-Gardens Residency, and NTU-NAC Creative Writing Residency. Among other accolades, Desmond is the recipient of the IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award, Independent Publisher Book Award, National Indie Excellence Book Award, Poetry World Cup, Singapore Literature Prize, two Beverly Hills International Book Awards, and three Living Now Book Awards.







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Publication date	<b>24th March, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 22.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882842</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B-Format</b>
Extent	<b>184 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Belgium</b>
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## Don't Mess with My Professionalism

**Vanessa Barros**

### Keyline

ACE-ing business through intercultural conflict resolution

### Description

Questioning others' professionalism invites an immediate negative reaction that many international executives have when they are facing a behavior which is culturally different from theirs and which they don't understand in the workplace. 'Professionalism' becomes the alibi for imposing one's cultural views of the world and of the workplace. 'Professionalism' becomes the alibi for ethnocentrism which in turn jeopardizes relationships at work and reduces chances of success in the ever-growing multicultural business world.

Such phenomenon may help explain why 70% of Merger and Acquisitions that fail, are due to cultural differences, whether these may be corporate or national. According to another research, 60 to 80% of all difficulties in organizations stem from conflicts between employees. These difficulties increase when cultures collide.

In this book, the authors go beyond individual views of "professionalism" to discuss the complex intercultural conflict phenomenon at work and propose practical ways to resolve it effectively. The distillation of our research enabled us to unveil a framework for intercultural conflict resolution called ACE, which consists of three parts:

- Attending to the emotions;
- Contextualizing the conflict;
- Exploring conflict resolutions.

### Sales Points

- The writing is well-organised with a framework in place for conflict resolution. Suggestions are practical and are not difficult to implement at the workplace.
- In a multi-cultural environment such as Singapore and more generally South East Asia, this book is of high relevance. Many MNCs have set up shop here, hiring people of diverse nationalities who have to make it work.
- The book is well balanced. It combines theories that are presented in a non-threatening manner with thorough research that distills the insights and stories of 200 senior executives from 66 different nationalities interviewed in recent months and their 4,000 years of combined professional experience.
- It targets a large audience ranging from business students ready to embrace an international career to senior executives who would like to perfect their conflict resolution skills or gain awareness of their existing skills to be able to transmit them to others.

### Author Bio

Vanessa Barros was born in Paris from a Portuguese actor and a French teacher. She was raised in Portugal and France. She started travelling by herself at the age of 16 in the US and throughout Brazil the following year. She never stopped exploring the world ever since. She graduated with a Master of Science in Management from ESSEC Business



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Publication date	17th December, 2019
Price	SGD 24.90
ISBN-13	9789814867979
Category/Subject	Adult/Fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	B-Format
Extent	264 pages
Territorial Rights	World

Author based in	Singapore
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## The Night of Legends

Kayce Teo

### Keyline

Who can you trust if you found out that everything you've been taught is a lie?

### Description

Keix is rescued from an underground prison by her friends Zej and Pod. They tell her that she's been imprisoned for two years by Atros, the organization she had joined as a trainee soldier since she was fourteen. She doesn't want to believe them, but the facts — her weakened body, a tracker exclusively developed by Atros implanted in her and partial memory loss — and a mind-compelling charm cast by Pod's Maii, an Ifarl, an ancient mysterious race, leave her no choice but to leave with them.

During her escape, Keix chances upon her best friend Vin chained up in one of the rooms in the facility. Keix is shocked as she believed that Vin was dead. Vin convinces Keix to leave her behind, reassuring her that they will meet again when the time is right.

Keix's heritage (her father is a Kulcan, a fierce race of warriors) which gives her exceptional fighting and healing abilities helps her regain her lost memories and strength quickly under her friends' care. She finds out that they've joined a rebel group during the two years she's been captured. With evidence backing up their claims that Atros is not as benevolent as they portray themselves to be, Keix is still reluctant to believe them, preferring to conduct her own investigation.

One night, a group of Atros soldiers led by a guy named Seyfer raids the hut they've been staying in. They kill Rold, a young rebel group member that she had just befriended. Keix escapes only to encounter Seyfer again. This time, he is leading an army of ghosts — the very enemies Atros has been tasked to protect the people from. Seyfer lets her off even though he has the upper hand, reasoning that she's "passed the test". Keix runs away, shocked, and regroupes with Zej, Pod and Maii. She crashes a meeting that the rebel group has with Ifarl elders to try to get them to help break Vin out and expose Atros' lies. Both parties decline but the Ifarls encourage Keix to proceed with her plans. They tell her that not only can she break Vin out, she also has the power to close the portal between the living and the dead, ending decades of misery that the underworld has brought.

Keix forms a ragtag group with Zej, Pod, Maii and a couple of younger recruits for her mission. Despite careful planning, Seyfer and his team capture them as they near the city centre. The group attempts to fight their way out of the facility. Seyfer shows up with some familiar faces, shocking them all as he reveals that there is a traitor in their team. He also confesses Atros' plans for Keix.

### Sales Points

- It builds on existing concepts that readers love about YA SFF, and introduces new elements that keep the story fresh (like Avatar).
- The protagonist is strong not mokey, which appeals to the younger readers today.
- The action-packed storyline will be enjoyed by both male and female readers.

### Author Bio

Kayce Teo was one of six mentees selected for the Mentor Access Project, an annual programme by the National Arts Council, Singapore, that develops young and emerging writers in Singapore's four official languages. This book was written under the mentorship of the prolific local writer, Dave Chua. Kayce works as a journalist in Singapore Press Holdings. Two of her short stories were published in an anthology Pulp Toast / Roti Bakar under the pen name Leslie W.

# MALAYSIA



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Publication date	<b>May, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 20.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882927</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B format</b>
Extent	<b>176 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## The Blood Prince of Langkasuka

**Tutu Dutta**

### Keyline

A dark historical fantasy/folklore coming of age story, with a murder mystery thrown in.

### Description

Raja Perita Deria, is a carefree and arrogant seventeen-year-old; and his story begins with a seemingly ordinary night out with his close friends. However, a chance encounter with a bewitchingly beautiful woman in an abandoned temple, almost ends his life and changes him irrevocably. After an incident involving the cook, and a dish of bayam, tainted with blood, he discovers that he needs blood to heal and for sustenance.

As heir to the throne of Langkasuka, the prince is also caught in the larger political struggle surrounding the kingdom which is being watched by the two powers of 12th Century Southeast Asia – the Sri Vijaya Empire and the Khmer Empire. Sri Vijaya courts Langkasuka by offering the prince, the hand of a Sri Vijayan princess, while the Khmer Empire seems curiously aloof. To everyone's surprise, Raja Perita is drawn to the princess, and agrees to marry her.

However, a spate of violent deaths in the palace of Langkasuka point towards the prince and his close friends and Raja Perita is slowly driven to breaking point.

When the most powerful shaman in the kingdom is murdered while attempting to commune with the Rice Spirit, the countryside is in an uproar. Her death sets off a witch hunt for a killer who could be a vampire... Could it be one of the prince's beloved friends or perhaps Raja Perita himself?

### Sales Points

- This book would make an interesting addition to the books written as part of the diverse storytelling movement and the right of young people to see themselves (and their culture) in books.
- Being a folklore-based fantasy, with horror and supernatural elements from Malay, Orang Asli, Chinese and Indian sources, The Blood Prince is also in line with current YA trends.
- Malaysian folklore is seen as new/unexplored territory as opposed to so many books which have been written, based on Western folklore.
- The story is rather chilling, but well paced and plotted, with well developed characters and written with near native speaker fluency, and the author has breathed life into the story and given it an original twist. The story, based on the Bujang Valley civilisation, which recent studies indicate could be the oldest archeological site in Southeast Asia, and the ancient Langkasuka myths should also generate interest in other English-speaking countries - India, the UK, US, Canada and Australia.
- Tutu Dutta is a prolific author in Malaysia with a large fan base."

### Author Bio

"Tutu Dutta is a writer of children's and Young Adult books. She was born in Churachandpur, India in 1957. Her family moved to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1963, when her father joined the Malaysian Army as a Medical Officer. To date, Tutu Dutta has authored nine books, including Timeless Tales of Malaysia, Eight Treasures of the Dragon, and the middle grade duology, The Jugra Chronicles, a story set in 17th Century Borneo. Phoenix Song, is her first picture book; published by Lantana Publishing (UK) and illustrated by Martina Peluso. Phoenix Song is also her first book, to be translated into Malay, and was published by Oyez! in 2017.

She was invited as a speaker at the Asian Festival of Children's Content in Singapore, twice. The first in 2013, where she presented a paper entitled Adapting

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THE GENEALOGY OF KINGS  
*Sulalat al-Salatin*  
Tun Seri Lanang

Penguin Classics

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[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Original Publication date **25 December, 2020**  
Revised Publication date **8 January, 2021**  
Price **SGD 25.90**  
ISBN-13 **9789814914185**  
Category/Subject **Adult Fiction/Classic**

Binding **Royal**  
Format **Paperback**  
Extent **328 pages**  
Territorial Rights **World**

Author based in **Malaysia**

## The Genealogy of Kings (Sulalat al-Salatin)

### Tun Seri Lanang, translated by Muhammad Haji Salleh

#### Keyline

A history of the Malay Peninsula and the islands of the Archipelago

#### Description

*The Genealogy of Kings* (Malay: *Sulalat al-Salatin* or *Sejarah Melayu*, is a literary work that gives a romanticised history of the origin, evolution and demise of the great Malay maritime empire, the Malacca Sultanate. The work which was composed sometime between the 15th and 16th centuries, is considered one of the finest literary and historical works in the Malay language.

In 2001, *The Genealogy of Kings* was listed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme International Register. The work covers the founding of Melaka and its rise to power; its relationship with neighbouring kingdoms and distant countries; the advent of Islam and its spread in Melaka and the region as a whole; the history of the royalty in the region including battles won or lost, marriage ties and diplomatic relationships; the administrative hierarchy that ruled Melaka; the greatness of its rulers and administrators, including the Bendahara Tun Perak and Laksamana Hang Tuah.

#### Sales Points

- The Malay Annals have had great influence on the history, culture, and development of the Malay civilisation, which had to confront major cultural transformation through the centuries.
- Through courtly chronicles like the Malay Annals, the Melakan tradition developed in the 15th century was transmitted onwards and fostered a vigorous ethos of Malay identity. These chronicles became an important source of instruction for Melaka's successor regimes, as they enshrined the sanctity and authority of a Malay ruler (daulat), his role in maintaining the cohesion of the realm, and legitimated the increasingly absolutist visage these states adopted in the competitive environment.
- As it is known, the Malay Annals and all kinds of other Malay manuscripts of whatever category still remain subjects of the study for the 'people who succeeded' from the time the works were produced. Clearly those works not only tell us about "the nature of the events and speech of Malay kings and their customs and traditions, but something far more deeper and broader than that.
- Prof Muhammad is the a very well-respected literary scholar in the region; his name itself will garner a lot of attention.

#### Author Bio

Prof. Muhammad Haji Salleh is one of the Malaysian writers who was awarded the National Literary Award in 1991. He also won the SEA Writers Award in 1997. In 2008, he was named National Academic Leader.

He was the President of the Malaysian Translators Association (1978-1982) and many Malay-language poetry translated into English. He also serves on the editorial board of the Southeast Journal, a member of the Board of Directors of the Language and Library Council, and a member of the National Literary Awards Panel.

His career began as a teacher at the Butterworth Trade School in 1960 and then continued his teaching career in several schools as a tutor, lecturer, senior lecturer and subsequently held several academic positions at local and international universities. He also made history as the youngest professor who was appointed to the post in 1979 at the age of 37.

Upon returning to Malaysia, he served at the National University of Malaysia and the University of Science Malaysia. For 42 years, he has worked at USM, UKM and UM . He has been invited to teach in the United States, Brunei,

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Germany and the Netherlands as a visiting professor and has received fellowships from several universities in the United States, Japan and the Netherlands . He was previously a Guest Professor under the Fulbright-Hays program (1977) and taught at North Carolina State University, Raleigh , USA (1977-1978); lecturer in the Department of Malay Literature; Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM; Director of the Institute of Language, Culture Malay Literature. Then became Professor of Literature at the age of 36 (1978). Muhammad is an "Asian Scholar in Residence" at the University of Michigan. In 1992-1993, he was elected Fullbright Visiting Reseacher, at the University of California, Berkeley; bears the Chair of Malay Studies at the University of Leiden, Netherlands (1993-1994). In June 1996, he participated in the National Association (Moscow) seminar on "National Construction and the Literature / Cultural Development in Southeast Asia", in which he presented the paper "Audience on the Staircase". The effects of a visit to Moscow, including the performance of "The Queen of Spades" directed by Peter Fomenko, in the theater of E. Vakhtangov, are reflected in some of his poems.

# The Apple and the Tree

## Life as Dr Mahathir's Daughter

Marina Mahathir

**The behind-the-scenes story of Malaysia's longest-serving Prime Minister told by his daughter.**

### THE PITCH

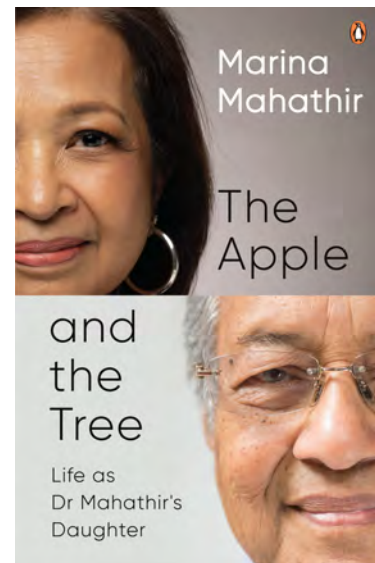
- Tun Dr Mahathir is undoubtedly the most well-known and revered figure in Malaysia, often called the father of modern Malaysia. How Lee Kuan Yew is to Singapore, SEA and the rest of the world attribute Malaysia's development to his relentless love for Malaysia and its success on the world stage. Everyone knows him and wants to read about him.
- Although he is such a huge personality, Mahathir has kept his personal life ferociously private so this book will reveal many intimate details of Mahathir as a father and politician through the things he has done and said in private, as the man the public do not get to see.
- There is no book out there that offers this perspective, as no one from his immediate family has written anything like it, and Mahathir himself has given his blessings to the book.
- Marina Mahathir is his most vocal and well-known child, having spoken up both for and against her father's policies, and her newspaper columns have a large following.

### THE BOOK

When an apple falls, does it roll far or stay close to its tree? Is it an exact clone of all the other apples the tree produces or something entirely different?

This is the question that has perplexed the public about me for the simple reason that I am the daughter of the man who has governed Malaysia for almost 24 years. Do I echo him in his view of the world, or do I chart my own path? Why is it that in my own public life, in my writing and speeches, I express opinions that seem to contradict his?

This book hopes to detail how I have navigated my life as the daughter of a charismatic politician and a loving father, even as sometimes I have chafed at being constantly under his shadow. It talks about how I have struggled to find my own identity, to defend my worldview at times and to reconcile them with his at others. I tell the story of growing up as the daughter of Malaysia's most influential leader, from the values instilled in me as a child, right up to the day he was forced to step down as the 7th Prime Minister after leading the historic ouster of the government he used to lead. It is my story, from my perspective and no one else's. It is, I hope, the answer to that question: what is it like to be Dr M's daughter?



Pub Date: 23 November 2021

ISBN: 9789814954228 / 9814954225

Price: SGD34.90

Subject: **Biography: Historical, Political & Military**

Format: 234mm x 153mm

Binding: **Hardback**

Extent: 396 pages

Territory: **World**

Bar Code: 9789814954228

BIC Code: **BGH**

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 07 July 2021

## THE AUTHOR

Marina Mahathir is a writer, women's rights and HIV/AIDS activist. She served as the President of the Malaysian AIDS Council for 12 years from 1993-2005 and was a member of numerous international and regional committees on HIV/AIDS.

From 2010-2016, she served on the Board of Sisters in Islam, which advocates for justice and equality for Muslim women, and remains a member of the Finance and Fundraising Committee.

Marina has written a column in a local English-language daily for more than 20 years, and writes and speaks regularly on current issues particularly where it relates to gender, human rights and religion. She is active on Twitter (@netraKL) and Facebook and has authored three compilations of her newspaper columns, *In Liberal Doses* (1997), *Telling It Straight* (2012), and *Dancing on Thin Ice* (2015).

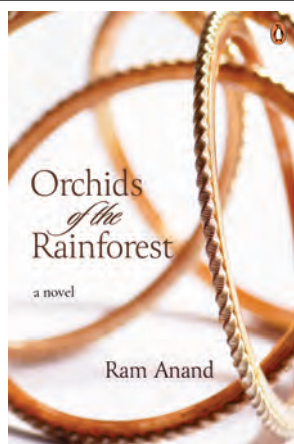
In 2010, Marina was named the UN Person of the Year by the United Nations in Malaysia. On the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day in 2011, Marina was one of only two Malaysian women named to WomenDeliver.org's list of 100 Most Inspiring People Delivering for Girls and Women. In 2016, Marina received France's highest award, the Chevalier de la Legion D'Honneur in recognition of her work in HIV and women's rights. This is in addition to receiving the Dato Paduka Mahkota Selangor (DPMS) from the Sultan of Selangor in 1997 which carries the title 'Datin Paduka'.

Marina's abiding interest in education especially for young women has led her to be appointed to the board of the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh. In 1997 she received an Honorary degree from Universiti Sains Malaysia for her work in HIV/AIDS education, in 2014 from Wawasan Open University, Penang for her work in human rights and in 2018 she received an Honorary Doctorate from her alma mater, the University of Sussex, UK. Previously she also co-produced an award-winning TV programme for young women, 3R -Respect, Relax, Respond which ran for 10 years on TV3.

Marina's latest venture is a website for women travellers in Asia and the Middle East, Zafigo.com and ZafigoX, an event on women and travel that features inspiring women who have faced challenges and barriers while travelling and overcome them.

In 2019, Marina completed with Distinction a Master's Degree in Biography and Creative Non-Fiction from the University of East Anglia, UK.





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Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914031</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>304 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## ORCHIDS OF THE RAINFOREST

**Ram Anand**

### Keyline

Six Indians strive to embrace their sexuality and their own notions of relationships in a conservative yet urban Asian metropolis.

### Description

*Orchids of the Rainforest* explores the lives of six urban Malaysian Indians who have unconventional relationships in an increasingly modern yet fundamentally conservative Malaysian society.

Geetha, a lawyer, has her world rocked by the death of her wealthy husband and later by an encounter with a romantic pursuer, Anand. Sabitha, her much younger cousin sister is trying to come out of the closet to her family. Anu, a writer and Yuvaraj's Malayali partner, has differing views on sexuality from her husband. Yuvaraj, a traveling engineer, grew up with latent chauvinism ingrained in his lifestyle, thoughts and in his treatment of women. He expresses his 'disagreement' with the sexuality of Sabitha and attempts to 'cure' her. He reacts negatively to Anu developing her own independent opinion about sexual minorities. Karthiga Murugesan is facing displacement for coming out of the closet about her sexual orientation.

The story attempts to capture the essence of contemporary urban Malaysian living. It illustrates the larger diversity that exists in Malaysia, and how the cosmopolitan convergence and ideological clash play out in modern Malaysia.

### Sales Points

1. There is limited Malaysian literature on the experiences and lives of Malaysian Indians. While stories about the lives of the Malaysian brown diaspora in the estates had been occasionally covered, there are very few stories that brought forth the atmosphere of urban Malaysian Indians in contemporary Kuala Lumpur. Despite being a small minority in Malaysia, the Malaysian Indian experience is a shared experience with a lot of Indian diasporas across the world. For countries such as Mauritius, Singapore and Australia, the Indian migration, especially from the south, was led by indentured labourers. While this story is about Malaysian Indians, the present-day ideological contradictions that brown youths need to navigate remains particularly relevant across many urban Indian second or third generation migrant diasporas.

2. Like many of its Asian neighbours, Malaysia's increasing urbanisation is a contrast to prevailing fundamentalism when it comes to social liberties. The book's exploration of limited LGBTQ rights, latent chauvinism, and family pressure that continues to play a big role in shaping up the lives and issues faced by Malaysian youth is something that will be relevant for many other Southeast Asian nations.

3. There is also a scarcity of literature attempting to capture the essence of contemporary urban Malaysian living. By using the diversity among the Indian diaspora as well (Tamils, Malayalis, Telugus), the book illustrates the larger diversity that exists in Malaysia, and how the cosmopolitan convergence and ideological clash play out in modern Malaysia, which is very much a work in progress. Contemporary Malaysian life and its atmospheric detail should be recorded as much as possible in literature.

### Author Bio

Ram Anand is a published writer, filmmaker, and a former journalist based in Malaysia. He had also spent over eight years writing for various news publications in Malaysia- namely Malaysiakini, The Malaysian Insider, The Malay Mail. He periodically writes opinion pieces in The Malay Mail after leaving journalism in 2018. He recently finished a Masters in Directing Film and Television at Bournemouth University, United Kingdom, and has written and directed three short films to date, two in United Kingdom, and another in India. His Tamil language short film made in India, *Andhi*, is currently being previewed at several film festivals across India.



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Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 20.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914017</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/Short Stories</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>248 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## THE ELEPHANT TROPHY AND OTHER STORIES

### PAUL GNANASELVAM

#### Keyline

A distinct glimpse into the transactional experiences of a community as migrants, citizens and the marginalized.

#### Description

*The Elephant Trophy and Other Stories* is a collection of 18 slice-of-life short stories featuring nuanced and diverse depictions of the Indian community in Malaysia. The overall theme of this collection echoes the outer and inner demons that possess the Malaysian Indian community that dictates the overlook of their lives as Indians and Malaysians. The collection covers themes such as socio-politics, socio-economic imbalance, gender issues, social class juxtaposed to community values.

#### Sales Points

- Materialism, indulgence in technology, the Internet, mobile phones and self-nurtured goals have become the epitome of today's individuals' life journeys. People, especially the younger generation nowadays do not see the need to place themselves within the context of history to understand their universe, depreciating life's values both to themselves and to those around them. Therefore, the reality of life- as told through the stories in this collection- its package of struggles, conflicts and triumphs- that can be rarely seen and observed behind the veils of modernity must be told.
- The content in this collection is relevant to time, society and context of the changing world and the many challenges it brings to contemporary Malaysia. People especially in Malaysia are becoming more racially divided, as such, there is a need to understand about each other- their struggles and aspirations and successes. This would make a difference on the readers' psyche and world view, and create kinder, empathetic individuals who are aware of others and their lives. The stories in this book would be able to harnesses the equilibrium of acceptance and build social harmony.
- The changing landscape of the Malaysian political and socio- economical scenario, lately, is one that has been on the rocks. These transitions are unsettling and unnerving. From scant economical opportunities, prejudiced political and social platforms, the Indian community stand vilified as pendatang, kafir, and trouble-makers. These are further interspersed with race, religion and communal based politics, power struggles, imbalance in economy distribution, status, class, gender, and sexuality. This collection of short stories offers a distinct glimpse into the lived life experiences of Malaysian Indians. Their experiences are unique, from being migrants, born as citizens and living as a marginalized community at the same time. It is stories that connect human beings together. It is through stories that identities, experiences and ideas about life values are built, making this collection an important fodder for thought and change.

#### Author Bio

Paul Gnanaseelvam is an Ipoh-born writer and poet whose work often focuses on the experiences, issues and identity conflicts of those in the Indian diaspora. His poems and short stories have been published both locally and internationally in e-magazines, anthologies and literary journals.

His first collection of short stories, a mixed bag of themes on Malaysian Indians was published in Nov 2013 by MPH Group Publishing, Malaysia. The collection was used as reading texts for the English Literature programmes both at University Tunku Abdul Rahman and University of Nottingham in Malaysia. It was also studied for literature based thesis projects and coursework by undergraduates.

Paul currently lectures at University Tunku Abdul Rahman in Kampar, Perak, West Malaysia.





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Pub. Month	<b>August 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954020</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fantasy Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>264 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## THE MONK PRINCE

**Golda Mowe**

### Keyline

He gave up happiness for duty but destiny will not let him go.

### Description

After twenty years of searching, King Waluyo finally gets his son back. He cannot understand why his beloved younger wife had insisted that their son become a monk. What was she hiding from him? Why did she want to separate their only child from him? When he learns that Alak Tegoh the crown prince is not his biological son, he realises that Queen Megabintang may have poisoned his other children. To protect his only living child and the people of his kingdom, Waluyo must use all his political acumen. His biggest hurdle, however, is Parantapa's attitude towards politics and war. Can he persuade his son to relinquish his Buddhist upbringing of non-violence? Or will he fail and see all that he has built fall into the hands of his brother-in-law, King Jayagapor?

### Sales Points

- This is a story for the fantasy fiction reader who is looking for more diversity. The author has captured the traditional drama, heroism and romance of epics such as the Epic of Bidasari and other drama and romance that is often alluded to in traditional South East Asian shadow plays and dance performances in this original story.
- While the author has great pride in the region's storytelling traditions, she also understands that these stories can be difficult for a modern reader to appreciate, so she has written 'The Monk Prince' in a style that is accessible and entertaining.
- The story is a political and family drama based on the early days of the spice trade, and hence bring the reader through a journey into our history.

### Author Bio

Golda Mowe was born and raised in Sibu, Sarawak. Although her first love is Asian History and Culture, she studied accounting concepts and graduated with a B.A. in Commerce from Waseda University, Japan in 1994. She has been interested in writing since she was 12 but did not know how to pursue this passion. In 2004 she decided that she should just dive into the industry and see what happens.

Since then she has published the following books: *Iban Dream*, published in 2013 by Monsoon Books Singapore, *Iban Journey*, published in 2015, *Iban Woman*, published in 2018 by Monsoon Books UK, *The Nanobots and Other Stories*, published in 2015 by Oyez!Books Kuala Lumpur and *The Laughing Monster*, published 2018 by Scholastic Singapore.

She is also passionate about local stories told from an indigenous perspective. This was in fact one of the reasons why she started writing the *Iban Dream* series because she was annoyed that the Iban perspective was not well represented in the English fiction section. Based on the lessons she learned from writing this series, she has put up two free ebooks in Academia.edu to help other indigenous writers write their stories for readers who read in English.



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SEA**YALPANAM**

The Blossoming and Rotting of Souls

- Shivani Sivagurunathan

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Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914116</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>320 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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**YALPANAM****The Blossoming and Rotting of Souls****Shivani Sivagurunathan****Keyline**

A socio-spiritual story about the search for wholeness set in present-day Malaysia with time-travelling journeys into the past.

**Description**

One hundred and eighty-five year old recluse, Pushpanayagi, is on the brink of a transformation. Her past, long forgotten, long avoided, is catching up. When eighteen year old Maxim Cheah, disgruntled at home, aching for freedom, for answers about her life, arrives on an apparent whim at Yalpanam—the old lady's house—they begin an unlikely friendship that will give the girl a temporary home, and send Pushpanayagi whirling through space-time, back to the past. Returning to 19th century and 1940s Malaya, to early 19th century Ceylon, the old lady encounters people long dead—a rigid British lepidopterist, his melancholic first wife, his vibrant second wife, their seemingly subservient servant—and is faced with the reality of her actions, and her denials. Will the past release her? As Pushpanayagi battles with her psychical upheaval, Maxim finds a place for herself at Yalpanam, and grows into her new friendship with Hadi, the vegetable seller. But a person can only run away for so long. Pushpanayagi and Maxim must embark on a journey fraught with lies, shadows, ghosts, and realizations at times too painful to bear, and discover, in their own unique but intertwined ways, the path to inner liberation.

**Sales Points**

- It carries strong Malaysian (and at times, by extension, Southeast Asian) flavours that coexist beautifully with the mystical and the philosophical.
- It is both historical and ahistorical: unapologetically rooted in a Malaysian past (and present also) and boldly floating in the timeless. This paradox creates a fresh type of writing: the reader is exposed to mundane situations infused with the extraordinary, through a specifically Malaysian lens.
- It has enticing features such as time-travel, a multi-regional and temporal historical setting (Colonial Malaya, Ceylon) and insight into contemporary Malaysian multiculturalism. A number of the chapters are set in 19th century Malaya and feature British characters.
- The setting and the themes of contemporary Malaysia are weaved in: divisive racial identity and politics, our problematic relationship with the past.
- There is a universal appeal since a core theme of the book is the quest for self and truth in the social, psychological and spiritual spheres.

**Author Bio**

Shivani Sivagurunathan has been writing and publishing fiction and poetry for twenty years. Her writing has always been grounded in a Malaysian context and supported by a metaphysical foundation—it combines the local and the concrete with the universal and the abstract, reminiscent of the South American magical realist writers like Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Mario Vargas Llosa.

In her first book, *Wildlife on Coal Island*, she created a fictional island as a means to explore the Malaysian context in ways that a non-fiction setting could not. The Indian writer Tabish Khair, described the book as 'R.K. Narayan's *Malgudi*, turned into an island, meets Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book* in this highly readable collection of stories by a new and distinctive voice from Malaysia'. It was republished by HarperCollins India in 2012.

Her short stories and poems have appeared in numerous international journals and magazines including *Cha: An Asian Literary Magazine*, *Agenda*, *Construction Literary Magazine* and many others.

# Lies that Blind

## A Novel of Late 18th Century Penang

E.S. Alexander

**1788, Penang, Malaya: A young man desperate to prove himself becomes enmeshed in the web of deceit woven by an ambitious adventurer whose double-dealing imperils the island's inhabitants.**

### THE PITCH

- *Lies that Blind* offers readers fresh insight into a fascinating point in history, popularised by the likes of William Dalrymple's *The Anarchy: The Relentless Rise of the East India Company*, and historical thrillers including David Liss's *The Devil's Company* and *A Conspiracy of Paper*. Perhaps more importantly, the novel shines light on an acquisition by the East India Company that has been marginalised by history. Plus, anyone who thinks they know the "whitewashed" accounts of Captain Francis Light's possession of Penang will be in for any number of surprises.
- *Lies that Blind* blends both the external and internal journeys of its young protagonist, Jim Lord makes for a more satisfying and deeply moving story. The novel is not just about corruption, treachery, and murder-and the amassing of 20,000 cut-throat pirates and mercenaries by Sultan Abdullah in an attempt to take his island back-but the unfolding of a flawed character who discovers that what he thought he wanted is not as fulfilling as what he is meant to do with his life.
- Readers want is to be educated about real historical characters. Which is why, in addition to the fictional protagonist and the villain, there are deeply researched actual people: from the eponymous Francis Light and many of his contemporaries on Penang, to minor characters including Jan Pieterszoon Coen, Lord Charles Cornwallis, and Sultan Abdullah Mukarram Shah of Quedda. Minor though they may be, these characters contribute to the plot in important ways.
- The novel educates readers about the Malay character and how centuries of abuse by their rulers and external aggressors have shaped the culture.

### THE BOOK

Malaya, 1788:

Aspiring journalist Jim Lloyd jeopardises his future in ways he never could have imagined. He risks his wealthy father's wrath to ride the coat-tails of Captain Francis Light, an adventurer governing the East India Company's new trading settlement on Penang. Once arrived on the island, Jim-as Light's assistant-hopes that chronicling his employer's achievements will propel them both to enduring fame. But the naïve young man soon discovers that years of deception and



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## LIES THAT BLIND

A Novel of Late 18th Century  
Penang

E.S. Alexander

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Pub Date: 19 October 2021

ISBN: 9789814954426 / 981495442X

Price: SGD26.90

Subject: Historical Fiction

Format: 234mm x 153mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 304 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954426

BIC Code: FV

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 30 June 2021

double-dealing have strained relations between Light and Penang's legal owner, Sultan Abdullah of Queda, almost to the point of war. Tensions mount: Pirate activity escalates, traders complain about Light's monopolies, and inhabitants threaten to flee, fearing a battle the fledgling settlement cannot hope to win against the Malays. Jim realises that a shared obsession with renown has brought him and Light perilously close to infamy: a fate the younger man, at least, fears more than death. Yet Jim will not leave Penang because of his dedication to Light's young son, William, and his perplexing attraction to a mercurial Dutchman. He must stay and confront his own misguided ambitions as well as help save the legacy of a man he has come to despise.

Inspired by true events, *Lies That Blind* is a story featuring historical character Francis Light (1740-1794) who, in an effort to defy his mortality, was seemingly willing to put the lives and livelihoods of a thousand souls on Penang at risk.

## THE AUTHOR

Elizabeth Smith Alexander was born in St. Andrews, Scotland in 1954, although her family moved to England a few years later. Her earliest memories include producing a newspaper with the John Bull printing set she was given one Christmas. She wrote and directed her first play, *Osiris*, at age 16, performed to an audience of parents, teachers, and pupils by the Lower Fifth Drama Society at her school in Bolton, Lancashire. Early on in her writing career, Liz wrote several short stories featuring 'The Dover Street Sleuth', Dixon Hawke for a D.C. Thomson newspaper in Scotland. Several of her (undoubtedly cringe-worthy) teenage poems were published in *An Anthology of Verse*.

Liz combined several decades as a freelance journalist writing for UK magazines and newspapers ranging from British Airways Business Life and the Daily Mail, to Marie Claire and Supply Chain Management magazine, with a brief stint as a presenter/reporter for various radio stations and television channels, including the BBC. In 2001 she moved to the United States where she earned her master's degree and Ph.D. in educational psychology from The University of Texas at Austin.

She has written and co-authored 17 internationally published, award-winning non-fiction books that have been translated into more than 20 languages.

In 2017, Liz relocated to Malaysia. She lives in Tanjung Bungah, Pulau Pinang where she was inspired to embark on one of the few forms of writing left for her to tackle: the novel.

# Nusantara - A Sea of Tales

Heidi Shamsuddin

**A collection of fairy tales, folklore, fables, myths, epics, legends, wonder and magic tales from all around Southeast Asia**

## THE PITCH

- There is currently no comprehensive collection of folktales and fairy tales from the Southeast Asian region which is on the same level as other famous fairy tale tomes such as *The Arabian Nights* (Middle Eastern region), *Grimm's Fairy Tales* (Germany), *Aesop's Fables* (Greece), Charles Perrault's *Mother Goose Tales* (France), Italo Calvino's *Italian Folktales* (Italy) and Alexander Afanasyev's *Russian Fairy Tales* (Russia).
- This collection can be read as a simple fairy tale book (for the lay reader), but the additional analysis at the end of each tale will also appeal to readers who are looking for a deeper insight into the stories.
- As most people are familiar with fairy tales, this book has the potential to do well in the Southeast Asian market, particularly since these are traditional stories which come from our own region.

## THE BOOK

*Nusantara - A Sea of Tales* is the most comprehensive collection of folktales, fairy tales, myths and legends from the Nusantara and Southeast Asian region, and was written to sit alongside the great anthologies of folklore from other parts of the world.

Although it is impossible to trace the origins of most of these traditional tales, we do know that these stories were used as a means to discover ourselves and the world around us. Like a living creature, these tales came into existence at some point, and have since evolved and adapted to suit the needs of the community that it finds itself in. The seafaring nature of the people in this region has no doubt contributed to the spread of these tales and explains the fascinating variations across Southeast Asia.

These rich and layered tales contain all manner of wonder, marvels and strange curiosities, and have been written to enthrall a new audience. The author has delved into the history and the meaning behind these tales but like all good fairy tales and folktales, each reader will extract their own meaning from these stories. The symbols in these stories engage our imagination and challenges us to question, discuss and unravel life's conflicts and mysteries. Herein lies the true power of these stories and the reason why these tales must be preserved and allowed to live and breathe once more.



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## NUSANTARA - A SEA OF TALES

- Heidi Shamsuddin

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Pub Date: 14 December 2021

ISBN: 9789814954594 / 9814954594

Price: SGD19.90

Subject: Folklore, Myths & Legends

Format: 216mm x 135mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 266 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954594

BIC Code: JFHF

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 14 July 2021

## THE AUTHOR

Heidi Shamsudin was born in Malaysia in 1973. She spent part of her childhood growing up in Seattle, Washington and Petaling Jaya, Malaysia. After leaving school, she studied law at Nottingham University, obtained a postgraduate degree in corporate law, and after taking her Bar exams, eventually worked as a maritime lawyer in a London law firm. In 2007, she returned home and began to write fiction.

Heidi is now an award winning author of stories inspired by Southeast Asia for both adults and children. Her first short story *Johan the Honey Hunter* won the regional prize for the Eye Level Children's Literature Award in 2012. Since then, she has written and published a historical middle-grade series, picture books and readers for children, and short stories for adults. In 2017, her screenplay for *Batik Girl* won the Intellectual Property Creators' Challenge (the IPCC Award) and was made into a short animated film by R&D Studio and Tudidut Studio. *Batik Girl* has been steadily gaining accolades throughout 2019, receiving the Honorable Mention in Audience Favorites award at Florida Animation Festival, Best Animated Short Film prize at the Festival de Largos y Cortos de Santiago 2019 in Chile, as well as Gold Medal in the Regional category at the 20th Digicon6 Asia, Japan.



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# Final Reckoning: An Insider's View of The Fall of Malaysia's Barisan Nasional Government

Romen Bose

**An unparalleled political blockbuster of intrigue, disaster, incompetence and the biggest financial scandal the world has ever seen.**

## THE PITCH

- There have been several books by the victors in the Malaysian 14th General Elections but there had been nothing written by the former politicians or members of the Barisan Nasional government giving their side of the story.
- It fills in the large gaps on what happened in Malaysia and the real story of what transpired from someone who was actually there and can provide an eyewitness account of what happened when the scandal broke, rather than a second or third hand interpretation of events.
- As a former journalist, the writing is gripping and leaves no details untouched.

## THE BOOK

Romen Bose worked as a Political Communications Consultant for former Malaysian Premier Najib Razak for six years and was a close confidante to decision makers in the upper echelon of the country's political elite.

Romen was present during the major controversies that hit the Najib Razak administration, witnessing first-hand how the country's leadership reacted to the disappearance of MH370 and the step by step actions of its topmost officials, as well as classified covert actions taken to retrieve the remains of Malaysian victims following the shooting down of MH17.

In *Final Reckoning*, the author gives a blow-by-blow account of how the 1MDB scandal rocked the Government and the attempts by the country's top politicians and their advisers to contain and explain it away. Through numerous conversations with key players and his presence at various top secret meetings following the global investigations into the scandal, Romen pieces together for the first time how a sitting Prime Minister became the unwitting patsy of a mastermind who had managed to pull off the single biggest con of the century. In doing so, Romen tells the story of an ultimately futile scramble to try and preserve a crumbling political legacy that had long been out of step with the realities of a new Malaysia.



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SEA

**FINAL RECKONING:  
An Insider's View of  
The Fall of Malaysia's  
Barisan Nasional  
Government**

**- Romen Bose**

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 07 December 2021

ISBN: 9789814954549 / 9814954543

Price: SGD31.90

Subject: **Politics & Government**

Format: **234mm x 153mm**

Binding: **Hardback**

Extent: **288 pages**

Territory: **World**

Bar Code: **9789814954549**

BIC Code: **JP**

Web Address: **www.penguin.sg**

AI Last Updated: **14 July 2021**



This book is the story of the wild roller-coaster ride that marked the Barisan Nasional Government's rule, from the 2013 General Elections, until its 61-year old rule came to an end on the night of 9 May 2018.

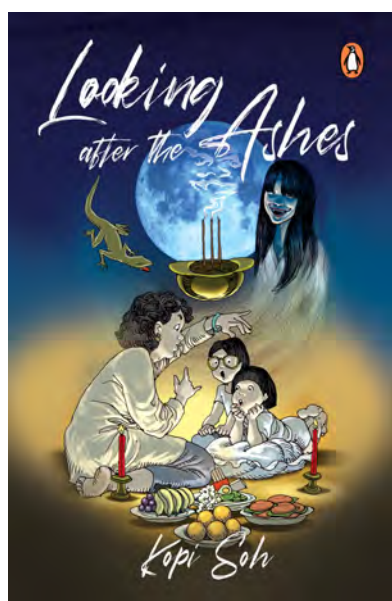
## THE AUTHOR

An international correspondent with over 22 years of reporting experience in the region, Romen Bose worked as a Political Communications Consultant for former Malaysian Premier Najib Razak for six years and was a close confidante to decision makers in the upper echelon of the country's political elite. Before setting up his own consultancy, Romen was head of Asian social media at IHS Markit and worked as a senior foreign correspondent with French news agency AFP based in Kuala Lumpur. He was the founding president of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Malaysia and a senior producer with the English service of Al Jazeera International when it opened its regional base in Malaysia. Prior to this, Romen was the Indochina Bureau Chief for Channel News Asia and has also consulted for the United Nations. Romen has also researched and written extensively on the second world war and its impact on Southeast Asia.



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Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 22.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882101</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Semi Biographical Fiction/ Supernatural/ Humour</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>216 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## LOOKING AFTER THE ASHES

**Old Wives' Tales, Taboos, Supernatural and Childhood Superstitions**

**KOPI SOH**

### Keyline

A book of superstitious old wives tales, supernatural events, and taboos.

### Description

If you eat while lying down, you will turn into a snake. If you don't polish off all the rice on your plate you will marry a man full of pimples and pockmarks.

*Looking After the Ashes* is a semi-biographical fiction of Kopi Soh's childhood stories. Growing up in a large extended Taoist influenced Peranakan family filled with strong women, Soh hears these words of 'wisdom' daily. She used to live in a world where clipping finger nails at night was strictly forbidden, pointing at the moon would result in one's ears getting chopped off, and children were forced to stay indoors during sundown for fear of collision with evil forces. A world where mental disorders and illnesses were believed to be caused by malevolent spirits. Talisman, mediums and fortune tellers were a part of everyday life.

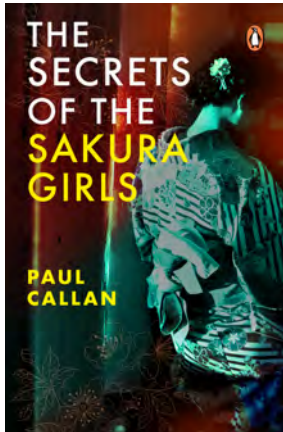
### Sales Points

- *Looking After The Ashes* is based on on Penang Peranakan culture, sprinkled with the author's own family's interpretation and made-up practices, which can be quite different from Singapore or Malacca Peranakans. Therefore stories told in this book are unique. Each story addresses a particular, taboo, superstition or Peranakan practice. It also has stories about supernatural events involving different ghosts such as Pontianak, orang minyak, toyol, etc.
- This book has a light-hearted and humorous flavor to it, and its language is accessible and will resonate with readers in the region.
- The stories in this book brings back fond recollection of the past as they are set in the 1970s, with flashbacks to the 1960s.

### Author Bio

Kopi Soh is the pseudonym of a US based Malaysian author and illustrator best known for her book *Oh, I Thought I Was The Only One*. She founded the Facebook community 'Stick It To Me', a page centered around producing 'healing art' for the terminally sick and needy, and organizes a group of volunteers to produce art for hospitals and charities. Her work with 'Stick It To Me' was recognized in the Digi WWWOW Awards 2015, winning an award in the Social Gathering category. She also served as the official illustrator for TEDxWeldQuay 2013.

Kopi Soh's first book, *Oh, I Thought I Was The Only One*, published by Dawning Victory Consultancy in 2012, is a self-help book oriented towards creating awareness of common psychological issues which manifest in daily life. In 2013, Kopi Soh published her second book, *Oh, I Thought I Was the Only One 2*, a sequel focusing on how children experience various stresses in their daily lives and teaching them skills on how to overcome them.



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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914024</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/Mystery</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>232 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>UK</b>
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## The Secrets of the Sakura Girls

**Paul Callan**

### Keyline

Love and death in a Japanese brothel in nineteenth-century Singapore.

### Description

It is Singapore in 1870 and Aoki is a karayuki-san. Aged fifteen, Aoki was sold by her father and shipped to Singapore from Japan, where she was bought into the world of prostitution. In a chance encounter with Reverend Harry Gilmore and his nine-year-old son Rupert from England, she finds herself drawn to their domicile life. Indomitable, empathetic and resolute, she is determined to break free of her life of prostitution and live the life she has always dreamt of. Against the backdrop of the savage decapitation of one of Aoki's Chinese customers, Aoki and Harry's feelings forge themselves into an unexpected bond. Meanwhile, detective superintendent Karupan, of the island's police, strives desperately to solve the crime and fend off possible religious riots. In a race against time, will the dreadful crime be solved and will Aoki and Harry's budding emotions grow into something permanent?

### Sales Points

- A sense of place and a window into history  
Secrets of the Sakura Girls gives a wonderful insight into life in Singapore in the late nineteenth century, especially for British missionaries and Japanese prostitutes. Written with access to primary sources by an author who knows the island well, it will appeal to readers who are interested in finding out what Singapore was like in a very different age.
- A moving portrait of female friendship  
Readers will be charmed and moved by the friendship between Aoki and Setsu, who have worked in Madam Usa's brothel since they were teenagers. In a life full of uncertainty and peril where no one can be trusted, they must rely on each other if they are to survive.
- A dark crime at the heart of the novel  
When a man is found brutally killed in a dingy alley, long-felt tension between Chinese secret societies and Christian converts threatens to erupt. A sub-plot to the main narrative follows the police as they hunt the murderer in the island's seamy criminal underbelly, and our heroine Aoki gets caught up in the investigation.

### Author Bio

Paul Callan is the author of three previous historical novels. The Dulang Washer was published by MPH of Malaysia in 2012, and was long-listed for the IMPAC award (Malaysia Tatler wrote: "[It] kept me engrossed for seven hours straight."). Shadows beneath the Fronds was published by MPH in 2013 (Book Review: "A very good book that tells the reality of the lives of the Tamils in [Malaysia]"). Epigram Books published his third novel, The Brigadier's Daughter, in July 2017. (Malaysia Tatler described it as "The Book of Love.")



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Publication date	14th January, 2020
Price	SGD 18.90
ISBN-13	9789814882170
Category/Subject	Adult Fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	B format
Extent	240 pages
Territorial Rights	World

Author based in	Malaysia
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## Taiping Tales of Terror

Julya Oui

### Keyline

Set in typical storytelling around the campfire here are 13 boys retelling those tales of terror in one night. But as the session draws to a close they realize they started out with only 12.

### Description

The stories in this collection are works of personal gratification, nostalgia, and reverence and they serve as an homage to the author's hometown and her favorite horror writers.

They take place in various timelines and are written as stories within stories ranging from a headless ghost that returns as a grim reaper, a bird-like creature on the loose, a were-tiger out to seek vengeance, a vampire that decimated an entire village and other restless paranormal entities that walk among us.

### Sales Points

- They are written in the same vein as horror anthology movies, TV shows and books with *Tales from the Crypt* (1972), the *Twilight Zone* series, and *Pan Book of Horror Stories* being the most comparable.
- The use of colloquialism in the stories is synonymous to Malaysia and specifically to Taiping town.
- Taiping is a well known town in Malaysia and since nothing much has been written about her this might garner interest for people who are curious and who want to explore more; albeit from the supernatural/paranormal perspective. And now that she has been also been named the 3rd most sustainable city in the world at the International Tourismus-Börse she must have captured more hearts and minds from the rest of the world too. Taiping herself could be the selling point on her own.
- This book is a smorgasbord of mystery, horror, suspense, thriller, and light hearted humor that may appeal to various generations. Although it is written as a YA it also relives that nostalgia adults like would have experienced as a kid where fear of the dark is prioritized over everything else in our most impressionable years.
- There's a type of horror fiction that's very unique to Malaysia. You'll never find anywhere else with such a cornucopia of folklore, with such strange things like black magic and creatures all coming together.

### Author Bio

Julya Oui is an author, a screenwriter, and a playwright. She has published four short horror story collections, written numerous features films and TV movie scripts, and a few stage plays. Her second book *Here be Nightmares* was long-listed in the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award 2015 (<https://shortstoryireland.com/2015/04/29/frank-oconnor-longlist-2015-announced/>) and won the 3rd prize for Popular-The Star Readers' Choice 2016. The story *Best Kept Secret* received an honorable mention from L. Ron Hubbard's Writers of the Future Contest 2015.

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SEA**TWO FIGURES IN A CAR  
AND OTHER STORIES**

-WAN PHING LIM

Cover to come soon...

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

www.penguin.sg

Pub. Month	<b>August 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 20.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954143</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction / Short-Stories</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>208 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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**TWO FIGURES IN A CAR AND OTHER STORIES****WAN PHING LIM****Keyline**

Short stories set in contemporary Malaysia and Singapore, depicting the lives of the lonely, desperate and heartbroken in their morally-subjective worlds.

**Description**

Two figures sit in a car, waiting to commit a crime. A young girl steals her grandmother's jade bracelet. A Malay man collects the blonde hair of a British teenager he is transfixed with, and a young woman feeds human blood to a frangipani tree.

There's right and wrong in this world. Or is there? This collection of 14 stories explores the grey and amoral lives of ordinary – and not so ordinary – Malaysians and Singaporeans looking to carve their place in the world.

Shifting between the dark hills of Penang island to the lonely coasts of Singapore and the cramped corners of Kuala Lumpur and Manchester, *Two Figures in a Car* is coloured with petty crimes, small ambitions and fantastical delusions.

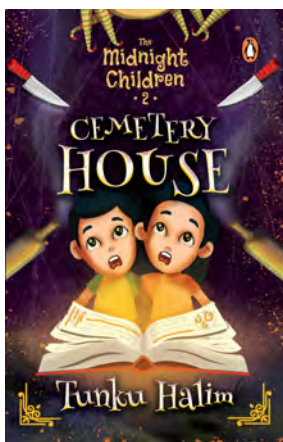
**Sales Points**

- Misfits, outcasts, the desperate and the heartbroken. The angry, the lonely and the displaced. There is something in every one of these 'broken' characters—and every bit of their craziness—in ourselves if we look closely enough.
- Ah Bengs and Mat Rempits—they are not delinquents, but rather ambitious and driven. Malay and Chinese interracial romances—love knows no skin colour nor boundaries on the outside and on the inside.
- If you like Patricia Highsmith and Gillian Flynn, you'll find plenty of unreliable narrators and anti-heroes in this collection to sympathise with. Read about yourself and the people you know, here in Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, close to home.

**Author Bio**

Wan Phing Lim was born to Malaysian parents in 1986 in Butterworth, Penang. Her short stories have appeared in *Catapult* (USA), *Ricepaper Magazine* (Canada), *Lucent Dreaming* (UK), *Kyoto Journal* (Japan) and anthologies by Monsoon Books (UK), Ethos Books (Singapore), Math Paper Press (Singapore) and Fixi Novo (Malaysia). Her story 'Snake Bridge Temple' was selected for Kitaab's Best Asian Short Stories 2017 and Buku Fixi's New Malaysian Writing 2017.





Penguin Books  
Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	<b>10 February, 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 9.90</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction/Horror</b>
Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>128 pp, 128 pp, 136 pp</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>

## THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN TRILOGY

### Tunku Halim

#### Keyline

What do you do when strange things happen around you?

#### THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN: A VANISHING

ISBN-13 9789814914215

#### Description

The *Midnight Children* trilogy is a series of dark fantasy novels for children age 8-13 combining Asian mythology and Gothic elements. The characters, ten-year-old Min and twelve-year-old Zak are the main protagonists.

In *The Midnight Children: A Vanishing*, Zak and Min's father mysteriously disappears at breakfast and curious things then begin to happen to them. Min encounters two small creatures with spider-like legs, a doll that runs, talks and steals and Shaz, the shaman, who gives her a box with a finger bone inside. Zak is chased by a strange man on all fours in the shopping mall, flees from snakes that interrupt his homework and is visited by a ghostly old lady in his bedroom who happens to love matcha ice cream.

Trying to find their father, they are transported to an eerie world called the Moonlight Lands where oily creatures want to kidnap and eat them. The novel concludes with Zak vanishing one night during dinner.

#### THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN: CEMETERY HOUSE

ISBN-13 9789814914222

#### Description

The *Midnight Children* trilogy is a series of dark fantasy novels for children age 8-13 combining Asian mythology and Gothic elements. The characters, ten-year-old Min and twelve-year-old Zak are the main protagonists.

In *The Midnight Children: Cemetery House*, Min and her mother move into Cemetery House with the distasteful Uncle Obb. Zak has been taken to the Moonlight Lands but flees from the oily creatures on a boat. He finds help at a river-side village but is betrayed by a village shaman and is almost trampled by a man-horse. Min, in the meantime, discovers a book and using its magic brings Zak back. They meet Shaz, the shaman, once again in the cemetery and he gives them a magic bottle. After almost being killed by a vampire, Min and Zak learn that their mother is in hospital but, before they can visit her, Uncle Obb locks them in a dog cage so that the oily creatures can kidnap them that night. Zak kills the two oily creatures using the magic bottle but Uncle Obb kidnaps Min at knifepoint and takes her to the Moonlight Lands.

#### THE MIDNIGHT CHILDREN: THE MOONLIGHT LANDS

ISBN-13 9789814914239

#### Description

The *Midnight Children* trilogy is a series of dark fantasy novels for children age 8-13 combining Asian mythology and Gothic elements. The characters, ten-year-old Min and twelve-year-old Zak are the main protagonists.

In *The Midnight Children: The Moonlight Lands*, Zak by helping a ghostly girl at the hospital brings his mother out of a coma. In the meantime, Min is now Uncle Obb's prisoner in the Moonlight Lands. He has also become king of the oily creatures and wants to eat her, Zak and her father because of their inherent magic. King Obb leads his army across the desert to attack the Rising, an army of mostly children who are rebelling against the oily creatures. The Rising's man-horses raid King Obb's camp and Min is rescued. Meanwhile, King Obb sends Ragdoo, his Lord Chancellor, to kidnap Zak. Ragdoo betrays King Obb by taking Zak to the Moonlight Lands to defeat King Obb. King Obb's army of oily creatures attack the Rising who are hopelessly outnumbered. Just as Min and her father are about to be beheaded, Zak appears and, using their combined magic, they turn the tide of the bloody battle.

**Orders to:** [customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg](mailto:customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg)



**Sales Points**

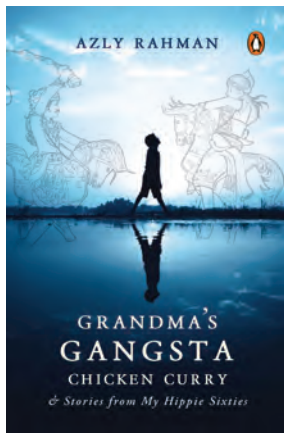
- Each of the three books in this series is a collection of dark, gothic and spooky short stories for children.
- The horror genre is a favourite in SEA. The stories in this series toned down for children, yet retains its spook factor.
- The stories are local-based with local characters (and well-loved creatures) hence has a distinctly Asian flavor.

**Author Bio**

Tunku Halim was born in 1964. He is dubbed as Asia's Stephen King and by delving into Malay myth, legends and folklore, his writing is often regarded as 'World Gothic'. His novel, *Dark Demon Rising* (1997), was nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award whilst his second novel, *Vermillion Eye* (2000), is used as a study text in The National University of Singapore's Language and Literature course. He has also won first prize in a Fellowship of Australian Writers' short story competition and has had three consecutive wins in Malaysia's Popular-Star Readers' Choice Awards between 2015 and 2017.

His short-story collections include—*The Rape of Martha Teoh & Other Chilling Stories* (1997), *BloodHaze: 15 Chilling Tales* (1999), *The Woman Who Grew Horns and Other Works* (2001), *7 Days to Midnight* (2013) and *The Rape of Nancy Ng – 13 Nightmares* (2018). His other novels include *Juriah's Song* (2008), *Last Breath* (2014) and *A Malaysian Restaurant in London* (2015). His non-fiction books include *A Children's History of Malaysia* (2003), *History of Malaysia—A Children's Encyclopedia* (2009) and a biography of his late father, *A Prince Called "Charlie"* (2018).

Tunku Halim's collection of short horror stories, published by Penguin Random House SEA in 2019, *Scream to the Shadows*, was a best seller in Singapore and Malaysia.



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Price	<b>SGD 26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882118</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Autobiography</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>224 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>USA</b>
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## Grandma's Gangsta Chicken Curry and Gangsta Stories from My Sixties

**AZLY ABDUL-RAHMAN**

### Keyline

In these lie his story – of separation from his tribe, so to speak. Of culture, its constructions, and complexities. The strange and the familiar has become him. Of the anthropology of the self, globalized in all its absurdities.

### Description

He is no longer him, today. At ten, he saw a chicken beheaded in his backyard, he too, an accomplice. He roamed his village, sometimes barefoot, wading through streams, backyards of his neighbors' houses where young men were high, smoking ganja. He once saw a group of men in red headbands with Arabic words on them, ready to march to the capital city to slaughter many.

He fought demons, wept when the family dog died battling a cobra. He saw men in a trance, munching on broken glasses and hibiscus petals, high on Javanese trance-dance music, turning into horses. A spaceship landed on the school field. He thought he died, shot by Martians.

He was saved from being a Taliban. Saved by the music of the American Hippies. He confronted a boy in a green robe and white turban, preaching jihad against Western music. He chased the young mullah out of the school.

His story told in the language of the Sixties. Of Beat poetry. Of rap, joyfully, he now narrates with melancholy.

### Sales Points

- This is an innovative and inventive work of creative non-fiction (CNF) that has, at its core, a set of moments of being written in the traditional narrative arc, and sprinkled with poems that captures the present and the past, and ethnographic notes to lead this body of work to the next set of experience. "Grandma's Gangsta Chicken Curry ..." itself as the first part of the title signified a 50-year bridging of cultural experience, "from the Malay village in JB to the Bronx, New York city" so to speak. The approach of mixed-genre is now a popular style of memoir writing in the New York city area at least, and this work of cultural significance is a gateway to introduce Asian readers to the style. Readers will enjoy the often rhythmic feel of the sentences. The voice is strong. And confused and angry. Yet funny and oftentimes obnoxious. This is a memoir of epic proportions. Chi's work is a testimony of this tremendous historical period that is the long twentieth century for the Chinese and the Taiwanese peoples. The English translation of this epochal memoir is most certainly significant. - Letty Chen, author of Writing Chinese: Reshaping Chinese Cultural Identity
- This book will be significant not only as a textbook or supporting material for any educator teaching Cultural Studies and Globalization and the study of language and its process and anatomy of transformation. It will also lend itself well in the realm of psycho-cultural-cognitive study of a child's mind as he/she experiences the complexities and confusion of cultural expressions. It will be a fine reading material for the analysis of the mind in society and for Asian readers, especially in Malaysia, Singapore, and Indonesia this work is relatable to the cultural context. Readers will enjoy the story of the boy and his emotional ride in the different stand-alone scenes. (The realism is akin to the American moviemaker Quentin Tarantino's depiction of people and events.)



- This book is both a memoir of a young boy and a socio-philosophical critique of the excess of religion and cultural practices. The subject matters are both engaging and presented not only with the voice of naivety but child-like honesty, giving the readers instances of philosophical probematiques to deal with while perhaps "sympathizing with the plight of the young narrator." The child in the memoir is rendered confused of what is happening in his life and around him and asked difficult questions on ethics, morality, worldview. His story is one that present the phenomena of absurdity of his Malay society -- racism, religious bigotry, politician's hypocrisy, neo-feudalism, etc. -- as how it has affected and shaped his philosophical outlook. These are serious questions that continue to plague the Malay society especially. This work in all its inventiveness ("gangsta-languageness") and stylistics will appeal tremendously to readers both in his society, as well as the Western world interested in learning about the innerworkings of post-modern and hypermodern society such as Malaysia. Readers will enjoy the philosophical musings and questions presented and each story can be a good cultural-philosophical classroom material in a course in Cultural Studies, Humanities, Globalization, and Americanization.

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#### Author Bio

DR AZLY RAHMAN grew up in Johor Bahru, Malaysia and holds a Columbia University (New York City) doctorate in International Education Development and Masters degrees in six fields of study: Education, International Affairs, Peace Studies, Communication, Creative Non-Fiction, and Fiction Writing. He has written more than 350 analyses/essays on Malaysia. His 30 years of teaching experience in Malaysia and the United States spans over a wide range of subjects, from elementary to graduate education. He is a frequent contributor to scholarly online forums in Malaysia, the USA, Greece, and Montenegro.

He has edited and authored seven books; Multiethnic Malaysia: Past, Present, Future (2009), Thesis on Cyberjaya: Hegemony and Utopianism in a Southeast Asian State (2012), The Allah Controversy and Other Essays on Malaysian Hypermodernity (2013), Dark Spring: Essays on the Ideological Roots of Malaysia's General Elections-13 (2013), a first Malay publication Kalimah Allah Milik Siapa?: Renungan dan Nukilan Tentang Malaysia di Era Pancaroba (2014), Controlled Chaos: Essays on Mahathirism, Multimedia Super Corridor and Malaysia's 'New Politics' (2014), and One Nation under God, Bipolar (2015), a joint publication between Gerakbudaya and World Wise Books of New Jersey, USA, being a compilation of essays on Malaysian Cultural, Creative, and Critical Studies.

# Covid 19: A Black Comedy of Emotional Intelligence

A Book Written During Quarantine

Natasha MH

**A compilation of stories inspired by COVID-19 and how the virus mutated the way we live and love and turned the world upside down**

## THE PITCH

- It's an inescapable chapter we are permanently part of. The stories present part of a conversation and part of a zeitgeist that are relevant for the 21st century reader. It combines research, media headlines weaved through psychological concepts to help us better understand what is happening and why people react the way they do in hard times while grasping to make meaning of the new normal.
- There is a sense of collectivism. COVID19: A Black Comedy and its quasi non-fiction story-telling approach, speaks the mind of everyone affected by the COVID-19 episode based on what was happening throughout the world, from questions about vaccination, debates on the 'Plandemic' conspiracies, demagoguing politicians fighting to revive the economy, arguments on working from home, shelter-in-place and stay-at-home orders, to the daily struggles, joys and anxieties shared by the world's population. Though written from an individual's voice, much of it becomes the articulation of a collective each time they shift their gaze two inches off their screen and into the real world.
- It becomes a time capsule. The stories and anecdotes come from a historic cache of information intended as a deliberate method of communication with future readers.

## THE BOOK

The pandemic crisis is not showing us our lives are irrevocably damaged. On the contrary, it reminds us of our role towards humanity and that some areas may have been neglected and systems need to be upgraded.

From weak healthcare systems, poor leadership, to the frailty of human communication, *COVID19: A Black Comedy of Emotional Intelligence* is both a social satire and a reflection exercise towards becoming a more engaged citizen of the world after the virus turned the world upside down. So much was conveyed from mainstream media, social media, skeptics and conspiracy theorists alike which rose to the surface like crema, an interesting tapestry of reexamining life as how we know it. A pandemic united the world, many agree to disagree on how the future of the planet ought to be handled. People saw ugly truths of their governments with their backhanded policies. But will life ever be the same again? It isn't just about the world in action but also about countries and their inaction. And where do we



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SEA

## COVID 19: A BLACK COMEDY OF EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

A Book Written During Quarantine

- Natasha MH

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 19 October 2021

ISBN: 9789814954419 / 9814954411

Price: SGD24.90

Subject: Psychology: Emotions

Format: 216mm x 135mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 224 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954419

BIC Code: JMQ

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 30 June 2021

go from here? All of these are discussed in short reflective pieces that make up the entire book written during quarantine. Each chapter fuses aspects of both science and arts, swinging from psychology, sociology, politics to economics providing both comic relief and cognitive stimulation. Students, educators and readers alike can benefit from the compilation of facts and sardonical approach.

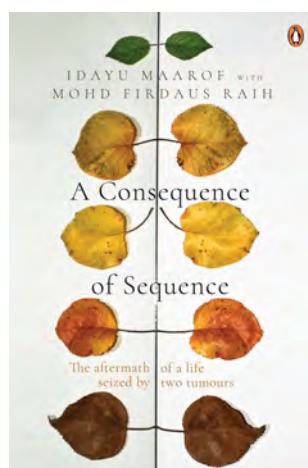
## THE AUTHOR

Born in 1976, Natasha is a creative communications specialist with 19 years in education, creative arts and the media industry. Her work was instrumental in creating the communicative arts curriculum design for Taylors' Design School under the School of Architecture, Building and Design at Taylor's University from 2004 - 2010. She also designed and taught the Performing Arts module at Taylor's School of Communication for over 6 years that paved the way for its first Performing Arts Conservatory launched in 2019. A signature of her work fuses performative, visual and fine arts with strong advocacy on cultural preservation and cross-culture literacy, as powerful expressive and therapeutic tools having collaborated with Kakiseni, the Malaysian Invention & Design Society and UNESCO under the Venezuelan embassy.

Her work under the BAC Education Group from 2014 - 2019 includes spearheading IACT College with a series of high-impact industry projects centered on social development targeting marginalized communities and controversial issues such as LGBT, rare diseases and Humanitarian work creating a strong alliance with the Make It Right Movement (MIRM), Mercy Malaysia and SEED Foundation. Her role includes redesigning the entity's communication curriculum programmes to facilitate increased youth employability and to promote innovative teaching and learning. Natasha was part of the UNICEF team with HELP University in 2006 to conduct two meaningful research: the traumatic effects of the 2004 Aceh tsunami on children and a nationwide research on bullying across Malaysian schools. Her exposure in these areas intensified her passion to travel across the country to create, provide and promote workshops on creative pedagogy based on trauma, emotional constructs and performative design.

In 2019 Natasha served as COO at Tandemic, a regional innovation firm specialising in Design Thinking (DT) training and Agile management, consultancy on innovation lab work, and social research. Her portfolio covered business development and strategy, and as a DT trainer with clients such as MyXpats, CIMB, UOB FinLab, Coca-Cola, TalentCorp, Penang Council, and Novo Nordisk. Natasha is currently the CEO of a social impact batik company that produces batik textile Gahara focusing on its domestic and international corporate strategy; Executive Committee member of the Malaysia Craft Council in pushing for education on and advocacy in artisanal representation for local arts and crafts; Industry Advisor for the Malaysian Institute of Architects (PAM), and is pursuing her doctorate in Business Administration specializing in the areas of organizational behavior, design and transformational leadership.





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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914109</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Non-Fiction/Biography &amp; Autobiography</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>204 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## A CONSEQUENCE OF SEQUENCE

The aftermath of a life seized by two tumours

**Idayu Maarof and Mohd Firdaus Raih**

### Keyline

Merely not dying is not really living - the grief and angst of coping with tumours, strokes, seizures.

### Description

After suffering strokes, general practitioner Dr. Idayu Maarof underwent major surgery to remove a heart valve tumour believed to have caused the strokes. Unfortunately, what seemed to be the end of a journey was only the beginning of an even more arduous one. Her symptoms evolved to multiple episodes of daily seizures. To control the seizures, she was put in a medically induced coma. A mysterious brain lesion became the prime suspect, but no one was certain. She later underwent two surgeries to remove what appeared to be a brain tumour. Dr. Idayu Maarof contextually concludes how a sequence of events and decisions led to a particular consequence. This is not an account about being ill. This is story of acceptance, gratitude, and the struggle for a life worth living.

### Sales Points

- **Relatability:** This book attempts to engage the millions who may be able to relate to the experiences of the authors' journey in coping with sudden, multiple and mysterious complex ailments – such as the more than fifty million people who suffer from epilepsy, the millions of patients who have undergone and will undergo open heart surgeries, brain surgeries, diagnosed with tumours as well as the millions who suffer the mental trauma and stress brought by illnesses, and an even larger number of individuals who provide care to these patients.
- **A story of post-traumatic growth:** Although this book is about the author's series of illnesses, it is not from a purely medical viewpoint nor is it farewell memoir. It is a book about the journey of healing and acceptance. It tells of traumatic changes, hardships and losses, but at the same time it is a story of the growth and triumphs that can drive us to adapt and evolve to become better versions of ourselves.
- **A patient's perspective to challenges of life-long illnesses:** The book also provides a perspective on how many of life's mundane daily rituals that are taken for granted can seem like insurmountable challenges – and reflects on how despite life's many twists and turns, it is up to the individual to interpret the meaning of the consequences of fate's sequences.

### Author Bio

**Idayu Maarof** graduated with an M.D. from the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia medical school. She then served in several hospitals before starting her own general practice. Her interest in health care through patient education has resulted in her writing for magazines and her personal blog on healthcare issues such as how patients can make the best use of the medical infrastructure to their maximum benefit.

Dr Idayu Maarof is passionate about empowering the public with the knowledge to better enable them to cope with their health issues, believing that doctors should also teach and help patients manage their health, especially to prevent the onset of disease. She has given lectures and talks on a diverse range of healthcare issues, medical education and public engagement through medical writing. Her first book, *The Doctor is Sick*, won an Anugerah Buku Negara (National Book Award, Malaysia) in 2017.

**Mohd Firdaus Raih** is a bioinformatician and computational biologist by profession. He has published numerous research papers in peer-reviewed journals and chapters in books of high standing in the scientific community. He has also written widely on science and technology as well as higher-education issues in various newspapers and magazines.



# A Dead Body Never Lies

Dr Rohayu Binti Shahar Adnan, Fatin Amin

**Speaking the truth with impartial scientific knowledge, and advocating justice for the silent.**

## THE PITCH

- The reason and goal for this book is to not just cater for the scientific community, but also for the general public, where the human aspects of care and understanding are instilled throughout each chapter. This book will not only interest readers such as doctors, or lecturers, but also readers such as enthusiasts for mystery and investigative genres.
- The book addresses many social issues and taboos experienced by people in Malaysia and talks about them objectively. and tell people it is okay to open up when they need help when it comes to medical or sociological matters, before it is too late. It explores religion, empathy, social issues, and family values. It encourages people to talk and at the same time, listen to each other. It is witty, heartfelt, sad, hopeful, and encouraging. The book highlights the judgemental society we live in and issues we need to address together as a society.
- Many people are interested in crime, especially real stories told from the first person POV, with details that have not been made public.

## THE BOOK

Words and actions can mean a thousand things in any mortality case, but only the body can provide the truth to decipher the cause of death. Dr. Rohayu, a Forensic Pathologist knows she has a duty to the dead and lives by the statement, "a dead body never lies." She has taken the unsaid oath to be the voice and safeguard the ones who are not able to tell their story. With Malaysia's diverse melting pot of race, culture, and religion, Dr. Rohayu has been through a plethora of extraordinary scenarios. It is no ordinary walk in the park when social stigmas, and taboos come into play, but rest assured Dr. Rohayu is committed to seek justice and provide closure. A food enthusiast with an infectious bubbly demeanor, Dr. Rohayu never fails to bring a little flare into her field of work. With the help of her co-author Fatin, they have transformed her work to be a compelling piece of art for the world to see and understand. No doubt in Dr. Rohayu and Fatin's mind, every single person deserves to be heard, the right to love, and freedom to be their true self. With a combination of science and empathy, they have created a unique piece of writing. Step into Dr. Rohayu's shoes as she brings you through these ten cases, she believes can be an educational one, and serves as a beacon of hope to the people who feel their voices are not worthy enough to be heard.



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## A DEAD BODY NEVER LIES

- Dr Rohayu Binti Shahar  
Adnan, Fatin Amin

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: **23 November 2021**

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Binding: **Paperback**

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Territory: **World**

Bar Code: **9789814914260**

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AI Last Updated: **13 July 2021**

## THE AUTHOR

### **Rohayu Binti Shahar Adnan (Author)**

Dr Rohayu Binti Shahar Adnan graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland, and came back to Malaysia to do her one-year internship at Hospital Tuanku Jaafar, Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. After completion of her internship, she worked in Hospital Tuanku Ampuan Rahimah, Klang in the Surgical and Forensic Medicine Departments as a medical officer before succeeding to pursue her studies in Forensic Pathology. She enrolled in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM), a 4-year Master of Pathology program. Upon graduating, she went on to do her 6-month specialist gazettement in Hospital Kuala Lumpur. She was then transferred to Johor in 2010 and worked in Hospital Sultan Ismail as a Forensic Pathologist and Head of Forensic Medicine Department. Currently, she is heading the Forensic Medicine Department of Hospital Sungai Buloh. Besides heading her Department, she has been actively involved with medical undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in Forensic Medicine in both local and private universities. She also organizes and gives lectures in many seminars and workshops for medical officers, assistant medical officers, nurses, lawyers, students, and secondary school children on Forensic Medicine. She has performed more than 1000 autopsies, supervising more than 3000 autopsies, and has attended almost 100 court cases all over Malaysia. Not to mention, she attended a course training in Forensic Anthropology at the University of Tennessee, USA, and Central Institute of Forensic science Bangkok. Forensic Pathology has always been her passion and it is her dream to share her knowledge of Forensic Medicine to the public.

### **Fatin Amin (Author)**

Fatin Amin has been on an unorthodox route when it comes to garnering experience. As a Journalism graduate from The University of Tampa and a Professional Golf Management Degree holder from the Professional Golfers Career College, she has never sauntered away from embracing new opportunities. Fatin has harnessed various leadership roles throughout her college career, and even took up practical training in a golf course, which was generally male dominated. Breaking barriers and acquiring new knowledge, paved a clear path of success for Fatin. Though life never goes to plan. After going through grief of losing her older brother Haikal from cancer, and multiple rejections of gaining work, post graduate goals became a blur. Her mother Jamilah decided to advise her on using her strong traits to create something on her own. As a primary caregiver for her late brother, and holding such passion for writing, Fatin's mother advised her to create a blog to spread awareness. After much thought, World Footprint, a Kindness Project Initiative was created. It is a project inspired by her brother's act of kindness to spread positivity, break social barriers, and create a safe space for individuals to express themselves. Being highly sports orientated, Fatin has always set her mind to win majors in anything she does. This book is a huge milestone for her, and has open doors for her to finally achieve the goal of creating a foundation in honor of her late brother, to help people wherever she can.





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# INDONESIA



## The Sea Speaks His Name

Leila S, Chudori, translated by John McGlynn

### Keyline

The tragic yet inspiring story of a group of friends, all young and idealistic political activists who faced the iron fist of power in the waning days of the Suharto regime, in the late 1990s.

### Description

In the twilight hours of a day in March, Biru Laut was ambushed by four unknown men. Together with his friends, Daniel, Sunu and Alex, he was taken to an unknown location. For months they were held captive, interrogated, beaten and tortured into answering one sole question: who stood behind the rebellious student movements at that time?

Biru Laut's younger sister, who, along with other family members of kidnapped student activists, struggled to put the pieces of the puzzle together and to find answers to their never-ending questions.

While her parents appear to be in denial and remain hopeful that Biru Laut will one day come back to sit at the family table again, Asmara Jati engages alongside the Missing Persons Commission Team led by Aswin Pradana in order to strive to find traces of those who went missing and to record the testimonies of those who returned.

Biru Laut's stirring story and that of his friends, is the story of the desaparecidos of Indonesia. It is the story of a momentous – and still seldom written about – period of Indonesian history which led to the end of dictatorship in Indonesia.

### Sales Points

- Leila S. Chudori is a one of Indonesia's biggest names in the literary scene. Anyone in SEA who keeps abreast of Indonesian literature will know who she is. Leila was among the 12 prominent Indonesian writers invited to attend the LBF (where Indonesia was the market focus).
- Walking in the footsteps of her illustrious mentor Pramoedya Ananta Toer, Chudori gives a stirring, no-holds-barred account of a seldom written about period of recent Indonesian history – one that eventually led to the end of dictatorship in Indonesia –, and thanks to her powerful writing, brings it to the world's attention. It is an important novel for Southeast Asian readers, on a topic that recently hit the news again with the presidential elections in Indonesia. One of the candidates, Prabowo Subianto, happens to be an ex-army general involved in the kidnapping and disappearance of many student activists back in 1998.
- John McGlynn has translated or edited over 100 works, including translations of several of works by Pramoedya which he published using his pen name, Willem Samuels, including *The Mute's Soliloquy*. According to *Tempo* (Indonesian magazine), "Over the years, McGlynn worked to produce English translations of Indonesia's top literary works, collaborating with a diverse group of translators, such as Harry Aveling, an authority on Indonesian and Malay literature."

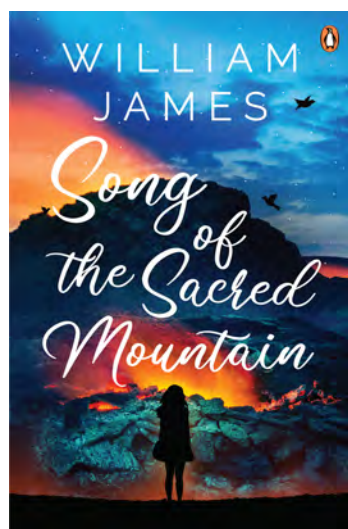
### Author Bio

Leila S. Chudori is Indonesia's most prominent and outspoken female journalist. She worked at *TEMPO* News Magazine from 1989 to 2018. She is also considered one of Indonesia's boldest story-tellers and is a well-known figure in the Indonesian literary scene. She is the author of several anthologies of short stories, three novels, TV and film scripts. Her novel *Pulang* (Home) was translated into English, French, German, Dutch and Italian. Today, Leila lives in Jakarta with her daughter, Rain Chudori-Soerjoatmodjo.

Publication date	25th February, 2020
Price	SGD 24.90
ISBN-13	9789814882316
Category/Subject	Adult Fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	Demy
Extent	304 pages
Territorial Rights	Southeast Asia

Author based in	Indonesia
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Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882088</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/ General Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Indonesia</b>
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## Song of the Sacred Mountain

**WILLIAM JAMES**

### Keyline

A touching and powerfully original father-daughter story set amid the seismic landscape of Central Java, *Song of the Sacred Mountain* dares not to answer but to ask timeless and universal questions about faith, tradition, and familial love.

### Description

A seventeen-year-old academic prodigy from a small village in central Java, Lestari wants nothing more than to become a modern, self-determined woman. But she swims against powerful currents. Raised by her father, the revered guardian of an active volcano, she joins the many offerings to the sacred mountain yet begins to question their effectiveness. The more Lestari learns about science and geology, it seems, the less she believes in ritual.

When a young Dutch entrepreneur arrives in their village to explore Indonesia's potential for geothermal energy, Lestari befriends and falls for the charming stranger, and the rift between father and daughter widens. In the weeks leading up to her high school graduation, the volcano begins to erupt, blanketing the village in ash. Shockingly, a set of tiger prints is discovered in the dust, sending villagers into a panic.

What follows is the haunting, unforgettable story of a daughter's search for truth and a father's unyielding loyalty. It is about the courage to question tradition, the faith to uphold it, and the love that ultimately binds them together.

An impressive debut novel, *Song of the Sacred Mountain* is nothing short of a triumph, an enduring, cautionary tale of a daughter's doubt, a father's faith, and a love that refuses to die.

### Sales Points

- The empowerment and autonomy of girls and women and the improvement of their political, social, and economic status is the single most effective way to uplift humanity. Lestari, the novel's protagonist, is a young girl from a traditionally paternalistic Asian society who wants nothing more than to become a modern, self-determined woman. Her struggle and eventual success serves as a powerful role model for millions of young women just like her. It is nothing less than a moral imperative to share her story with them.
- Millions of young people around the world, particularly in emerging countries, are questioning traditional religious and cultural beliefs and practices. At the same time, extraordinary new technologies threaten to disrupt long established social norms, leaving young people to search for meaning in a rapidly changing world. As Tom Flynn, Executive Director of the Council for Secular Humanism, writes, "*Song of a Sacred Mountain* is a book that speaks eloquently to and about them." It is a timely and important story that dares not to answer but to ask the most compelling questions of our time.
- Stories that depict lives other than our own are perennial favorites. This has never been truer or more important than it is today, as Asian countries emerge to take their place on the world stage. Through colorful descriptions of Indonesian life and the skillful interplay between author and heroine, *Song of the Sacred Mountain* bridges the cultural and ideological divide between East and West and by so doing brings us that much closer together.

**Author Bio**

William James is an author and educator whose work focuses on the advancement of girls' education and empowerment. He is the founding director of PowerSisterhood, a non-governmental organization dedicated to the belief that investing in girls and women in the developing world will yield the highest dividends of any possible investment. In support of this belief, the organization inspires and coordinates the efforts of talented and highly motivated young women and men in senior high schools and universities worldwide to raise awareness of and funding for programs focused on girls' education, particularly in developing countries.

As an English teacher at schools in the United States, Switzerland, and Indonesia, Bruce has inspired hundreds of students to discover the power and beauty of the written word through literature, creative writing, and public speaking. He has been the faculty advisor on several literary magazines and was twice awarded Teacher of the Year. In a previous career, William was a speechwriter for AT&T, Bell Laboratories, and NYNEX executives.

William earned degrees in English, Creative Writing, and Education from Rutgers University and Columbia University in New York. He has published poetry, short stories, and political essays, in addition to public speaking engagements.





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# THE PHILIPPINES

# Banaag at Sikat (Radiance and Sunrise)

Lope K Santos, Translated by Dr Danton Remoto

**A tale of love and loss set against the rising tide of socialism in the early years of the American occupation of the Philippines**

## THE PITCH

- Vietnamese environmental literature is increasingly receiving attention in the international arena. Readers include not only academics and policy makers, but also the citizenry at large.
- This collection will be the first that will be translated and edited by Asians (Vietnamese and Singaporean). The project will be far larger in scope in that it will also provide critical analysis of the stories contextualising them within Vietnamese literary history, which is nearly 10 centuries-old and also bring an awareness of native cultural sensitivities to the analysis.
- The Vietnamese short stories on ecology are by prominent contemporary Vietnamese writers. Many of these stories have been in active circulation in Vietnam since 1986, the 'Year of the Reform', when Vietnamese artists were politically and culturally 'liberated' and engaged with great commitment in criticizing, among other things, the government's environmental policies and ways in which these were enmeshed in economic strategies and schemes for so-called national progress. The selected stories convey messages about political, social, and economic changes of contemporary Vietnam.

## THE BOOK

*Banaag at Sikat* is one of the first literary novels written by Filipino author Lope K. Santos in the Tagalog language in 1906. As a book that was considered as the 'Bible of working class Filipinos', the pages of the novel revolves around the life of Delfin, his love for a daughter of a rich landlord, while Lope K. Santos also discusses the social issues such as socialism, capitalism, and the works of the united associations of laborers.

The novel is about two friends: Delfin and Felipe. Delfin is a socialist, while Felipe advocates the works of an anarchist. As a socialist, Delfin believes and wishes to spread the principles of socialism to the public, where the citizens could have more right in all the businesses, properties, and other national activities. Although he is poor who studies law and works as a writer for a newspaper, Delfin still strongly believes that a society inclined to the cause of the poor through peaceful means, a challenge that could be achieved through violence.



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**BANAAG AT SIKAT  
(RADIANCE AND  
SUNRISE)**

- Lope K Santos,  
Translated by Dr Danton  
Remoto

Cover to come soon...

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Format: 234mm x 153mm

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Territory: World

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AI Last Updated: 14 July 2021

On the other hand, Felipe - who advocates anarchy - believes in the forceful way of destroying the existing powers and cruelty harbored by the rich landowners. He wants to dispel the abusive members of society who rule society. Even though he is the son of a rich town leader, Felipe hates the cruel ways of his father. He would rather see a society with equal rights and equal status for all its citizens: where there is no difference between the poor and the rich classes.

## THE AUTHOR

### **Lope K. Santos (Author)**

Lope K. Santos was a Filipino Tagalog-language writer and former senator of the Philippines. He is best known for his 1906 socialist novel, *Banaag at Sikat* and for his contributions for the development of Filipino grammar and Tagalog orthography.

Santos pursued law at the Academia de la Jurisprudencia then at Escuela Derecho de Manila (now Manila Law College Foundation) where he received Bachelor of Arts degree in 1912. In the late 1900s, Santos started writing his own newspaper *Ang Kaliwanagan*. This was also the time when socialism became an emerging idea in world ideology.

In 1903, Santos started publishing fragments of his first novel, *Banaag at Sikat* on his weekly labor magazine *Muling Pagsilang* (*The Rebirth*) and was completed in 1906. When published in book form, Santos' *Banaag at Sikat* was then considered as the first socialist-oriented book in the Philippines which expounded principles of socialism and seek labor reforms from the government. The book was later made an inspiration for the assembly of the 1932 Socialist Party of the Philippines and then the 1946 group Hukbalahap.

In the early 1910s, he started his campaign on promoting a 'national language for the Philippines', where he organized various symposia, lectures and headed numerous departments for national language in leading Philippine universities. In 1910, he was elected as governor of the province of Rizal under the Nacionalista Party. In 1918, he was appointed as the first Filipino governor of the newly resurveyed Nueva Vizcaya until 1920. Consequently, he was elected to the 5th Philippine Legislature as senator of the twelfth senatorial district representing provinces having a majority of non-Christian population.

In 1940, Santos published the first grammar book of the 'national language', *Balarila ng Wikang Pambansa* (*Grammar of the National Language*) which was commissioned by the Surian ng Wikang Pambansa (SWF). The next year, he was appointed by President Manuel L. Quezon as director of SWF until 1946. When the Philippines became a member of the United Nations he was selected to translate the 1935 Constitution for UNESCO. He was also appointed to assist for the translation of inaugural addresses of presidents Jose P. Laurel and Manuel A. Roxas.

### **Danton Remoto (Translator)**

Danton Remoto was educated at Ateneo de Manila University, Rutgers University, University of Stirling and the University of the Philippines. He has worked as a publishing director at Ateneo, head of communications at United Nations Development Programme, TV and radio host at TV5 and Radyo 5, president of Manila Times College and, most recently, as head of school and professor of English at the University of Nottingham Malaysia. He has published a baker's dozen of books in English. His work is cited in *The Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Literature*, *The Princeton Encyclopaedia of Poetry and Poetics*, and *The Routledge Encyclopaedia of*



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Price	<b>SGD 29.90</b>
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Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/ Crime &amp; Mystery</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>264 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Philippines</b>
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## At Night We are Dancers

**RM Topacio-Aplaon**

### Keyline

A story of love and family amidst ever-changing political milieux, of understanding existence and purpose—but, above all, embracing redemption in its countless forms.

### Description

This novel spanning seven decades documents the life of Tomas Franco “Cocoy” Sabater and his ascent to becoming one of the Philippines’s most callous vigilante assassins. Punctuated by news clippings from different generations, essays and accounts from a perceptive journalist, internal monologues, a short children’s story from a failed novelist, and a lingering homage to ballet and kundiman, the story progresses in a non-linear fashion, conscientiously dissecting Sabater’s tumultuous pursuit of reprisal as he tries to fix his disintegrating relationship with his dying wife and growing daughter.

*At Night We Are Dancers* is a story of love and family amidst ever-changing political milieu, as well as understanding existence and purpose, but, above all, embracing redemption in its countless forms.

### Sales Points

- It has a regional appeal. Most novels in English written by Filipinos are set in Manila, or have it as a jump-off point for their narratives. This begins and ends in Cavite and Imus, getting tangled up in various parts of the Philippines, including Manila, along the way. Because of this, the novel’s psychological sensibilities are a departure from those that have been widely known in popular Philippine literature—from culture and tradition to virtues, down to the injections of the distinct Caviteño Filipino language, providing offbeat and vivid descriptions of rural Filipino life.
- It has a literary approach. *At Night We Are Dancers* is both whodunnit and mystery fiction, yet still literary in essence. Literary, not only because of the language utilised, but also of how it has faithfully adhered to what most serious literary fiction has done in the past: painstakingly understand the characters’ sentiment through psychological analysis; take the importance of geography to understand cultural behaviours and not only as mere setting; and, thanks to postmodernism, use different forms to tell an effective story from various perspectives—and, in the case of this manuscript, through fictional newspaper and magazine articles, a children’s story, and even through streams of consciousness and epistolary narratives. *At Night We Are Dancers* could be one of those books that could bridge this seemingly unspoken divide. Whodunnit, mystery fiction, or noir, even a political-cum-crime thriller, or a plain literary novel—it could be any of these.
- It contains Philippine realities. The novel centers mainly on Tomas Franco Sabater, a member of a vigilante organisation which specialises in eradicating sexual offenders who have escaped the claws of justice because of the prevailing corruption in the country. Sabater was a victim himself: unknown men broke into their family home and violated his mother and sisters on a Christmas Eve in 1984, which leaves him with anger, pain, and a lifelong motivation for revenge. It also greatly touches upon his being an absentee husband and father, a man trying to balance his being a family man and a vigilante, his beliefs and conscience, his secrets and his desire for normalcy. It is reflective of Philippine society in general—of the depths one is willing to go for their family, the country’s broken justice system, and the corruption that continuously pulls the entire country down amidst the promises of the many presidents who ruled it in the span of the six decades (1970s–2010s) in which the novel moves. Overall, it is about humanity, forgiveness, understanding life’s complexities, and grasping the verity of living and the reason behind existence.

**Author Bio**

RM Topacio-Aplaon is a novelist from Imus, Cavite, Philippines. He has published two novels in Filipino under the University of the Philippines Press.

The first one, *Lila ang Kulay ng Pamamaalam* (loosely, *Lilac is the Colour of Farewell*), published in 2015, was shortlisted for the National Book Awards and the Madrigal-Gonzales First Book Award. It also earned a runner-up citation from the Gawad Gintong Aklat by the Book Development Association of the Philippines. His second novel, *Muling Nanghaharana ang Dapithapon* (*Dusk Serenades Again*) was published in 2018. Both comprise the *Imus Novels*, a septology centered on Topacio-Aplaon's hometown. The five remaining books will be published by the same press, with *Topograpiya ng Lumbay* (*Topography of Grief*) set to be released this year.

He attended the University of the Philippines National Writers Workshop in 2016 and served as panelist at the Philippine Readers and Writers Festival in 2015 and 2018. He has taken part in promoting local literature to students of writing.

*Alguien ya contó las horas* (*Somebody has already told the time*), a collection of short stories, essays, and poems in English, was published in 2018 by Balangay Productions, an independent press based in Cavite.

Topacio-Aplaon currently works for a global sustainability-adherent company based in Manila. He was also a painter and an amateur musician.

*At Night We Are Dancers* is his first English-language novel.

# Assembling Alice

Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta

**A young female journalist in pre-war Manila joins a secret resistance movement against the Japanese-when the war breaks out, she stands to lose everything.**

## THE PITCH

- The story is a love story on at least two levels: the one between an American and a Filipina, which is already a richly complex relationship on the onset. It is also a love story between a nationalist and her nation-one that is often one-sided, always difficult and only sometimes reciprocated.
- The story aims to empower women in a third-world country still suffering not just from patriarchal positioning, but from archaic notions of patriarchy.
- The book strives to tell the story of a first generation of women journalists whose work and efforts gave birth to the next generation of women journalists-a new wave whose writings have been pivotal in the overthrow of old dictators. This generation continues to speak truth to power despite overwhelming dissent and criticism.

## THE BOOK

Before and after the Battle of Manila, a Japanese spy and an American soldier have one thing in common: they both fall in love with Alice Feria, a pianist who would later become one of the first women journalists in the Philippines. Both would prove to be instrumental to her survival during the Japanese occupation and the liberation of Manila.

*Assembling Alice* is a portrait of a woman as much as it is a portrait of the times she lived in. She came of age during the commonwealth period, survived both the occupation and the war, and did not write of her experiences as much as she spoke of them to those in her inner circle. Her experiences were sublimated into editorials she wrote for a small magazine called *The Filipino Home Companion* where she wrote of nation-building and what it meant or should mean to be a Filipino after the second world war. Inside these pages are the stories she told, and have been told about her.

## THE AUTHOR

Mookie KATIGBAK-LACUESTA is the author of four poetry collections: *The Proxy Eros* (2008), *Burning Houses* (2013), *Hush Harbor* (2017), and *Eros Redux* (2019). She obtained an MFA from the New School University in 2004, and has since taught in major universities in Manila. Katigbak-Lacuesta has also co-edited various



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## ASSEMBLING ALICE

- Mookie Katigbak-Lacuesta

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: **26 October 2021**

ISBN: **9789814954105 / 9814954101**

Price: **SGD26.90**

Subject: **History: Specific Events & Topics**

Format: **198mm x 129mm**

Binding: **Paperback**

Extent: **240 pages**

Territory: **World**

Bar Code: **9789814954105**

BIC Code: **HBT**

Web Address: **www.penguin.sg**

AI Last Updated: **29 June 2021**



literary Filipino poetry anthologies for the Cordite Poetry Review and Vagabond Press. In 2019, she co-edited *The Achieve Of, The Mastery*, a survey of contemporary Philippine Poetry in English, with Dr. Gemino Abad.

Widely-awarded for her work in the Philippines, Katigbak-Lacuesta has also been the Filipino delegate to international literary festivals in Rotterdam, Medellín, San Francisco, Macau, and Kuala Lumpur. In 2015, she completed a writing residency for the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa.

# The House on Calle Sombra - A parable

Marga Ortigas

**Portrait of a mixed-race family grappling with identity and betrayal in a turbulent tropical island nation.**

## THE PITCH

- It's an unconventional family saga centred around universal themes of loyalty, secrecy, and bitter sibling rivalry.
- It's told from a unique multicultural perspective of 'Hispanic Asians': westernized Filipinos who are a rare mix of Spanish and indigenous Muslim.
- It speaks to the current political climate, where rhetoric and celebrity can dictate 'truth' and social divisions are a global ailment.

## THE BOOK

*The House on Calle Sombra* follows the fates and fortunes of the esteemed Castillo de Montijo family over three generations. Set in the Philippines - a tropical island nation where truth blends with fiction - none of the Castillos is quite as perceived. Successful patriarch Don Federico arrived from Spain a penniless orphan. Formidable matriarch Doña Fatimah is a native Muslim fugitive. And their brood of privileged descendants is struggling to live up to their famed and crested motto: FAMILY FIRST.

Mirroring events in the country's turbulent history, the Castillos façade begins to fracture as shadows from their past return to claim their due.

Sardonic, witty, and brutally frank, *The House on Calle Sombra* is an ode to family, and a compelling exploration of how greed, love, and trauma are passed down through generations.

## THE AUTHOR

Marga Ortigas has travelled the world as a journalist for three decades, with a career spanning five continents and two of the largest global news networks. After getting her start in the Philippines, she joined CNN in London, working across Europe and covering the war in Iraq from its inception. In 2006, she returned to Manila and the Asia Pacific region, reporting from the frontlines of armed conflict and climate change as senior correspondent for Al Jazeera. Her extensive coverage of the Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross for Humanitarian Reporting.

A British Council Chevening Scholar, Ortigas earned her MA in literature and criticism at the University of Greenwich. She speaks



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## THE HOUSE ON CALLE SOMBRA - A PARABLE

-Marga Ortigas

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 23 November 2021

ISBN: 9789814954044 / 9814954047

Price: SGD29.90

Subject: Family & Relationships

Format: 234mm x 153mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 352 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954044

BIC Code: VFV

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

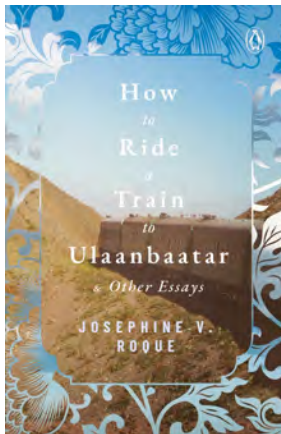
AI Last Updated: 23 July 2021

three languages, and is the editor of *I, Migrant*, an online platform which showcases writing from the diaspora, advocating a universal humanity beneath people's differences.



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Publication date	<b>29th January, 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882880</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Travel Writing</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>216 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Malaysia</b>
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## How to Ride a Train to Ulaanbaatar and Other Essays

**Josephine V. Roque**

### Keyline

A solo female traveler navigates the world and discovers that freedom is possible.

### Description

*How to Ride a Train to Ulaanbaatar and Other Essays* is a coming-of-age story of a woman who leaves home to work in Shanghai following the death of her mother. In a collection of ten travel essays, she writes about living in another culture to learn another language and the experiences that shaped her view on what it means to be her own person, a daughter, a friend, a lover and a citizen of the world.

### Sales Points

- Despite advances in technology and maybe even because of it, wanderlust never goes away. The thought of being able to start all over again in a new place will always be appealing. When you move to a new home, how do you deal with issues of identity, and being away from family and friends?
- There are a lot of books written by Americans and Europeans about traveling around Asia but not as many on an Asian exploring their country neighbors. As flights become cheaper and opportunities to relocate become available, books have been falling behind in reflecting about how life is lived in the region by foreigners not coming from countries with an imperial past.
- It is daunting to travel alone as a woman. This collection of essays shows how a solo female traveler can not only navigate the world but that such freedom is possible. While there are blogs written by women that talk about traveling and working overseas, few are reflective. They deal more on the logistics of movement as opposed to shifting perspectives during travel and living overseas as a foreigner.

### Author Bio

Josephine V. Roque is a freelance journalist and editor. She has worked in print and online publications in Manila and Shanghai. Joyce obtained her MFA in creative writing from De La Salle University and has received prizes for her essays from the Doreen Fernandez Food Writing Competition and Ateneo Art Awards. She also contributes art criticism and profiles for ArtAsiaPacific Magazine and ArtReview Asia.



Germany and the Netherlands as a visiting professor and has received fellowships from several universities in the United States, Japan and the Netherlands . He was previously a Guest Professor under the Fulbright-Hays program (1977) and taught at North Carolina State University, Raleigh , USA (1977–1978); lecturer in the Department of Malay Literature; Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UKM; Director of the Institute of Language, Culture Malay Literature. Then became Professor of Literature at the age of 36 (1978). Muhammad is an "Asian Scholar in Residence" at the University of Michigan. In 1992-1993, he was elected Fullbright Visiting Reseacher, at the University of California, Berkeley; bears the Chair of Malay Studies at the University of Leiden, Netherlands (1993-1994). In June 1996, he participated in the National Association (Moscow) seminar on "National Construction and the Literature / Cultural Development in Southeast Asia", in which he presented the paper "Audience on the Staircase". The effects of a visit to Moscow, including the performance of "The Queen of Spades" directed by Peter Fomenko, in the theater of E. Vakhtangov, are reflected in some of his poems.

**Sindicato & Co.**

-Jose Elvin Bueno

Cover to come soon..

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Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 29.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954082</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/Thriller</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>380 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>USA</b>
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**SINDICATO & CO.****Jose Elvin Bueno****Keyline**

The Expat paradise that is Manila turns into Expat inferno in this thriller that rival today's headlines.

**Description**

David Elliot, an American expat in Manila, gets a new assignment from his multinational consulting firm. To deliver to a client a very sensitive message that's cached on his phone.

Angela Avellana, a Miss Universe finalist turned prostitute turned master thief, lands the motherlode of her thieving career. An American she picks up in a bar.

When the American goes missing, Francesca Godíñez, the daughter of a slain journalist who was the latest victim in the infamous extra-judicial killings, discovers the truth about the War on Drugs. And the innumerable number of the dead and the disappeared of which the American could soon be added to.

Before the missing American becomes an international incident, General Luis Alberto, the head of the Philippine National Police and the brains behind Operation: Tokhang, needs to locate him. And as the decorated general adds yet another name to his dreaded kill list, he will have to decide whether to keep the American alive.

**Sales Points**

- The story and how it is told

There are two obsessions that the entire Filipino populace never tires of—national politics and beauty pageants. Both these obsessions are the foundations of the book upon which very topical themes everyone can relate to are anchored on—the injustice of extra-judicial killings that are the staple of news headlines, the continued colonization via the ubiquitous presence of expatriates all over the islands, and the need of having its identity validated through the blind worship of everything Miss Universe. And with the novel told in conversational English peppered with youth argot, street slang, and everyday colloquialism, the book's vibrant storytelling makes it a compelling read.

- The author's literary credentials

The author holds two recognitions from The Palanca Literary Foundation, the Philippines' longest running and most prestigious literary awards. The first is for his first novel titled *Subversivo, Inc.* which was awarded with the Grand Prize for the Novel, and the other is for his stage play titled *Looking for Ulysses* which was honored with Second Prize for the One Act Play in English (and made its stage debut during the awards ceremony). Receiving a Palanca Literary Award is one way an author gets recognized both in the literary marketplace (with award winning pieces being much anticipated releases) and in the academe (the written works make it into the curriculum of high school and college courses, and in his case, his stage play became a subject of a Ph. D. dissertation from a post graduate student in the University of the Philippines).

Aside from being an award-winning novelist and playwright, he is also a published fictionist with my short stories having appeared in 'The Philippines Graphic Magazine', *The Best of Philippine Speculative Fiction*, and in volumes 4, 9, 10, and 11 of *The Annual Anthology of Philippine Speculative Fiction* which has a cult following not just in the Philippines but all over the world as well.





- The support of Filipino literary giants  
Three literary giants and cultural taste makers who are all active in both social and traditional media have supported the author's first novel and have committed to support his next one.

These are what they have to say:

Following through on the success of his first novel *Subversivo, Inc.*, Palanca Grand Prize Winner Jose Elvin Bueno now leads us on a madcap romp into the twists and turns of contemporary Philippine politics, employing a cast of thoroughly familiar characters and situations but investing them with an absurd grandeur. This is political melodrama at its riotous best, exhilaratingly comic if not for its underlying fidelity to many of our saddest truths. As it races on to its titanic climax, *Sindicato & Co.* also provides us with another way—perhaps the only truly effective way—to tell the story of the Pinoy today.  
— Jose Dalisay Jr., author of *Penmanship and Other Stories*, *Soledad's Sister* (A Novel), and *Voyager and Other Fictions*

Set against the real-life backdrop of the worst excesses of current Philippine politics, Jose Elvin Bueno presents a tautly written thriller revolving around a slain periodista's dangerous discovery, involving the most powerful and dangerous men of the country. As the situation escalates in both the real world and the digital realm, *Sindicato & Co.*'s fiercely imagined and nuanced cast of characters find themselves on an inevitable collision course that will rock the nation. Bueno tells his gripping story with confidence, finesse, and an easy grace.

— Dean Francis Alfar, author of *The Kite of Stars and Other Stories*, *Salamanca* (A Novel), and *A Field Guide to Manila and Other Stories*

Jose Elvin Bueno blurs the lines between conspiracy theories and elusive truths in this riveting satirical thriller. Hilariously agitating!

— Chris Martinez, author of *Last Order sa Penguin*, *Our Lady of Arlegui*, and *Welcome to IntelStar*

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### Author Bio

Jose Elvin Bueno is a Filipino-American fictionist, playwright, and novelist. He was the recipient of the Grand Prize in the 63rd Palanca Awards for Literature for his novel of *Subversivo, Inc.* He currently lives in New York.

# Divining Duterte

## Perspectives, Policies, Performance

Edilberto C. de Jesus

### A critical look at Duterte's time in office as the 16th president of the Philippines

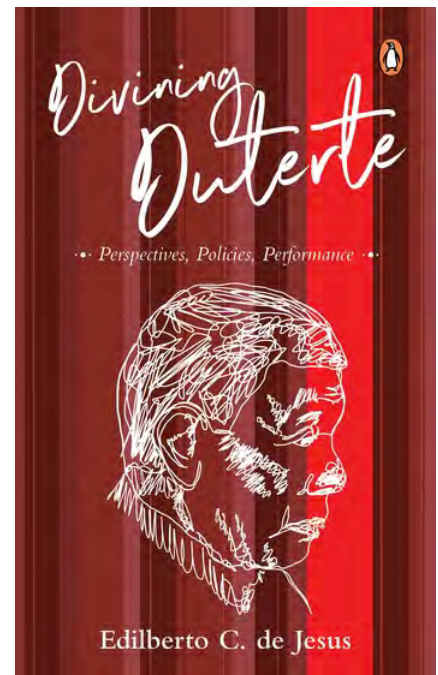
#### THE PITCH

- Others may benefit from de Jesus' struggle to gain a better understanding of this president and his presidency. With the Duterte Administration coming to its close, Filipinos must also strive to measure its impact on the country's political institutions and culture. Efforts towards such an assessment would also help voters in the 2022 elections determine the directions they would like the country to take.
- If journalism offers a first draft of history, opinion pieces might serve as useful footnotes. They supply context, providing real-time reflections of the range of public sentiments prevailing at the time. Philippine media is remarkable for the number of columnists to whom mainstream publications allow space. In the politically developed countries of the West, readers know the ideological orientation of the national papers and subscribe to those whose views align with theirs. In the Philippines, where even the political parties cannot be accused of ideological consistency, the newspapers try to demonstrate their impartiality by providing space to for opinion pieces by both admirers and critics of the government.
- de Jesus' is known and respected for his critique on public issues. His job after graduate studies with the Asian Institute of Management involved the critical review of public management efforts to address development concerns, with the goal of improving their effectiveness. His involvement in the opposition to Martial Law and his subsequent service in government, in the Cabinets of Corazon Cojuangco Aquino and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, gave him opportunity and at times, what I felt was the responsibility to speak on public issues.

#### THE BOOK

First published as opinion pieces, the essays in *Divining Duterte* provide contemporaneous commentaries on the context, course and consequences of the policies Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte pursued after his 2016 election.

Duterte became the first president in seventy years to come from Mindanao and the first to vault from a city mayor's office to Malacañang Palace. Exploiting the potential of social media, Duterte was an Asian example of the elected "populist strongman," like Brazil's Bolsonaro, Hungary's Orbán, and Russia's Putin. His policies challenged the commitment to established political values assumed unassailable: human rights and the rule of law; separation of powers; and the preference to ally with the United States and other



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Subject: Politics & Government

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Binding: Paperback

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BIC Code: JP

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 22 July 2021

nations that shared its democratic liberal values rather than with authoritarian regimes. Despite these policies and problems coping with the pandemic, public opinion polls rewarded him with high approval ratings.

Restricted to a single presidential term, he will inevitably exert an influence on the 2022 elections. Duterte's 2016 underdog victory rewrote the rules for presidential politics. In reviewing the path he took to bring the country towards 2022, *Divining Duterte* explores his success in overturning Philippine political values

## THE AUTHOR

Edilberto C. de Jesus served as president of: Far Eastern University (1995-2002); the University of the Cordilleras (2008-2009); and the Asian Institute of Management (2009-2012), where he now holds a Professor Emeritus appointment.

In 1987, President Corazon Aquino appointed him Deputy Peace Commissioner, on secondment from AIM, where he was Chair of the Rural Development Management Program. In 1988, he received a concurrent appointment in the Cabinet as Presidential Adviser on Rural Development (1988-1992). Returning to AIM, he served as Associate Dean for Research and established its Policy Center. He was president of the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities and a board member of the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations when he was appointed Secretary of Education (2002-2004). He was President of the Council of Southeast Asia Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) in 2003, later serving as its Secretariat Director in Bangkok (2005-2007). He served in the Asia-Europe Education Hub established by the Asia Europe Foundation for the ASEM (Asia Europe Ministerial Meetings) and has been on the Advisory Committee of the Philippine Business for Education since its inception in 2006.

He obtained a B.A. Honors Course in the Humanities, cum laude, from the Ateneo de Manila University and the M. Phil. and Ph.D. degrees in History from Yale University. He is the author of *The Tobacco Monopoly in the Philippines: Bureaucratic Enterprise and Social Changes, 1766-1880* (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1980) and co-edited, with Alfred McCoy, *Philippine Social History: Global Trade and Local Transformations* (Ateneo de Manila University, 1982).

## QUOTES

'Historian, university president, cabinet minister under two Philippine presidents and columnist, Edilberto C. de Jesus combines an exceptional set of virtues, a scholar's depth of perspective, an inside view of how political and governmental power works, and a passion for staying in the moment in the twists and turns of a nation's life.

In a time (and not just in the Philippines) when politics seems to be taking the strangest turns and the quality of public discourse is at a historic low, we sorely need a voice such as that of de Jesus - intellectually honest, sane, modulated yet deeply felt and thought.' Resil B. Mojares, Ph.D., *National Artist for Literature* (2018)

'*Divining Duterte* is a welcome collection of pieces because as former Presidential Spokesperson Ernesto Abella once said, 'If we follow his [Duterte's] style, let us not put a period at the end of his statements'. As we approach the 2022 elections, the period is about to be placed in the long meandering paragraph that is Duterte's presidency. It is time now to ask what the sentences meant, if they

meant anything at all. Time now to begin figuring out which deliberate words and silences led to our nation being built or unbuilt.

Let this book start us figuring. Let this timely book by Dr Edilberto de Jesus help us decide and elect who gets to write a better paragraph after his period.

' Jose Ramon T. Villarin, S.J., *Former President, Ateneo de Manila University, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*

'Every other enigmatic personality attracts both followers and detractors, but the narrative that has created the *sui generis* persona of the Mayor from Davao may be an unfathomable tale.

Thus, *Divining Duterte* may be a futile venture and a most frustrating goal. But whether you consider yourself a DDS or Dilawan, a political animal, social scientist, or concerned citizen, De Jesus' insights into Dutertismo-much like the Delphic oracle-should bring the reader closer to the holy grail of understanding the Filipino psyche. For, in the end, a people's choice of its leader reveals the profile of its electorate and unravels the heart and soul of the nation.

' Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC, *Former Secretary, Department of Education, Philippines*

'Prof. De Jesus masterfully combines a contemporary insider's insights with a scholar's deliberative analysis and a historian's reflective perspective, to highlight not just the disappointing policy outcomes of the mercurial Duterte administration, but also their causes, deeply embedded in longstanding power structures, governance systems and personality politics in the Philippines. He is well-placed to comment on the implications of the regional and international context and constraints for Duterte's policies, and his deep understanding, lively prose and unflinching cut-and-thrust style help sort through the opacity which so often confounds outside observers while stimulating Filipinos to reconsider their own experience and interpretation of these tumultuous years.' Linda Lim, PHD, *Professor Emerita of Corporate Strategy and International Business, Stephen M Ross School of Business, University of Michigan*

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*The Tobacco Monopoly in the Philippines: Bureaucratic Enterprise and Social Changes, 1766-1880* (Ateneo de Manila University Press, 1980)



[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)



# The Golden Realm

Vincent G. Marasigan

**Evil is at its play in the wilds of Borneo and beyond. Will a double-crossed young war leader be in control of his own destiny?**

## THE PITCH

- It is a riveting story of historical war leaders. Readers will be captivated by the lives of the natives in ancient Borneo and Mindanao, which were key in the development of this region, but little literature is found about them.
- Although this is by a debut writer, the story is written masterfully and the suspense from start to end will hook readers
- It is a unique story portraying the life of the D'yak, Suluk and Sama tribes. It takes readers into the way of life of the tribes in ancient times and their gory practices. The culture and the tradition of the region that we still see till today, are depicted very strongly in the novel and contribute to a deeper appreciation of the preservation efforts in the region.

## THE BOOK

*The Golden Realm* is an indigenous novel about love, life and faith of war leaders in ancient Borneo and the Philippines. It depicts the way of life of the D'yak, Suluk and Samas as the predominant tribes of the region at that time.

Sometime in the year 20 BC, the early datuaks ruled the Southeast Asian region. It was long before the Moros, the Spaniards, the Portuguese arrived and influenced the region. It begins with a story of a datuak named Sikat. He was a formidable fighter of long ago and held a massive realm, a kadatuan, in the northernmost tip of Borneo or nearly the whole of Saba. His realm was a jewel in the whole island. He was a feared war leader during his time. But an incident erupted - the neighbours, D'yak people who had gory practices of head hunting, tried to stir trouble on the realm. Datu Sikat was bent on annihilating them to prevent them from entering his realm. In his last days, his son, Tali, betrays him. He longed for the throne of his father but someone - his half brother Pula - stood in his way. Who will succeed to become the next datuak of the realm?

## THE AUTHOR

Vincent G. Marasigan lives in Davao City, Philippines, and works as an editor at the City Government of Davao. He has had short stories published in various journals within and outside the Philippines. *The Golden Realm* is his first novel.



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## THE GOLDEN REALM

- Vincent G. Marasigan

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 14 December 2021

ISBN: 9789814954112 / 981495411X

Price: SGD27.90

Subject: Historical Fiction

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 320 pages

Territory: World

Bar Code: 9789814954112

BIC Code: FV

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

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Publication date	<b>May, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882125</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B format</b>
Extent	<b>248 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## The Rosales House

**Mignon Bravo Dutt**

### Description

*The Rosales House* is a contemporary novel about Claire Rosales, a twenty-eight year old advertising executive in Singapore, who hails from a powerful political clan in the Philippines. Claire's orderly life in Singapore is disrupted by the death of her influential grandmother Gloria Rosales. With Gloria's demise, Claire loses her constant support and her strongest pillar especially after her broken wedding engagement. Moreover, the Rosales estate is now divided and the clan will have to rely more on Claire's uncle, Ric, a congressman, for their public face. Claire knows only too well, though, that Ric is not the charismatic family man he pretends to be.

### Sales Points

- The story is relatable. The Rosales House is a realistic fiction in contemporary setting that deals with universal emotions of the need to belong, not just to a country, to a culture, or to a clique, but to the basic unit—the family. But what is family? Is it blood ties that make one family? Or is it togetherness and the shared experiences? What if family betrays? Should one remain loyal to the family or remain true to her moral compass? These are some of the questions that Claire, the protagonist, tries to face in this novel.
- Like everyone else, Claire is human and has moments of cowardice, but in the end, her greatest act is to be true to herself, to come to terms with who she really is despite the truth about her identity.
- The Rosales House resonates with:
  - A traveler/ a member of the diaspora who's in search of rootedness, especially in this age of greater displacement. The book provides a glimpse of how an overseas worker sets up a support network and route to work.
  - A multi-faceted individual with many roles to play. While Claire struggles to define her family, she also tries to hold other facets of herself together. She tries to be a good friend, manages her career, her other interests, e.g., running marathons.
  - Someone who is a daughter/a mother/ a friend.
- It inspires resilience. There is physical resilience and there is emotional resilience. One is tangible and measurable while the other lives in another realm and because of this is often overlooked. Claire does not have a superpower, but has a wellspring of strength that makes her rise and rise again after the many disappointments that came her way. She doesn't wallow in sadness but gradually overcomes her grief and losses through her resilience.
- It is a rewarding read. Overall the novel tackles intertwined themes in a realistic but interesting setting. There is constant excitement throughout the book that keeps the reader engaged. It is a relaxing and refreshing read as the story unfolds across several geographies, reflecting the reality of greater travel. It allows readers to experience of the northern part of the Philippines and the heritage areas of Singapore, among other locations. As with real travel, culture is integral to a place, which is likewise included in the reading experience.
- While not its focus, the novel also touches on Claire's love life. This is no fairy tale story, but is rather an illustration of the redemptive power of love, of second chances. The novel ends in an uplifting note that aims to reward in more ways than one.

### Author Bio

Miggs Bravo-Dutt is a writer and researcher whose work has been published in several countries, regions, and cultures. Her short fiction has appeared in 22 New Asian Short Stories 2016 and The Best Asian Short Stories 2018. Sheh as co-edited Get Lucky: An Anthology of Philippine and Singapore Writings, a Singapore Writers Festival bestseller in 2015. She has also contributed poetry to various anthologies and journals in Singapore, Asia, Croatia, and the USA, and written for Royal Bhutan Druk Air's Tashi Delek and other travel guides and newsletters.

**Orders to:** [customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg](mailto:customer.support@penguinrandomhouse.sg)





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Price	SGD 17.90
ISBN-13	9789814882972
Category/Subject	Adult/Fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	B
Extent	144 pages
Territorial Rights	World

Author based in	Columbia
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## Virtual Centre and Other Science Fiction Stories

Raissa Claire R. Falgui

### Keyline

Welcome to Virtual Centre, where the past, present and future converge

### Description

'Virtual Centre' is the first in this collection and, as the 2002 Palanca Awards first-prize winner for Futuristic Fiction, it has been anthologized multiple times. It tells the story of rich people who have chosen to live the rest of their lives virtually while poor people take care of them—until a young anarchist attempts to disrupt the system. This prompts his sister, the caregiver Delia, to run off with her charge, a singer she had a crush on in her youth. The two of them impulsively leave the city to start a new life together.

'Hatchling' makes reference to the monster Tiyanak of Philippine supernatural lore. Two young people discover a large egg one night, shortly after sighting a UFO. They are drawn to it by infantile cries, only to find within a hatching carnivorous dinosaur they must run from.

'The Creator Defends His Creation' is the testimony of a man standing trial for fraud for building an android and getting him elected as president. In his defence, he criticizes the political system and explains how his creation was able to remedy the various issues.

'By the Light of the Moon' introduces an alien figure from Venus who revels in being hailed as the Philippine goddess Haliya, protector of the timid moon god. Her relationship with a reclusive young man in a dreary job inspires him to change his life.

'The Sincerest Form of Flattery' is the story of a girl who maintains a lifelong resentment towards her younger sister, a clone of her grandmother. She cuts herself off from her family out of bitterness and is upset to be approached by her sister when she gets into trouble with the law. The story explores the potential complications of cloning on family life.

'The Beautiful and the Whole' is a post-apocalyptic story in which the Philippines, in an attempt to rejuvenate its population after a devastating war, has instituted restrictive laws about marriage and reproduction. With nearly the entire first generation born after the war found to have genetic defects caused by nuclear and biological warfare, genetic testing is required to classify the population as marriageable and unmarriageable. Frankl Veneracion, being born with multiple flaws, is branded unmarriageable and decides to become a scientist to remedy genetic defects. He falls in love with his beautiful and apparently physically perfect young friend. Once he goes abroad, he is able to marry and sends for her, but she mysteriously disappears en route. As he desperately searches for her, he uncovers an illegal egg-harvesting and cloning operation.

### Sales Points

- The stories are science fiction that border on science possible, given that they deal with themes and situations that are current and relevant, especially as technology becomes more embedded in our daily lives.
- There are elements of suspense, adventure and romance, which are woven together brilliantly, sometimes in a single story.
- The family dynamics highlighted in the stories are highly relatable in this part of Asia.



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### Author Bio

Raissa Claire R. Falgui's fiction has been published in various anthologies—'The Sorceress Queen' in *Alternative Alamat*, 'Dreaming of the Sea' in *Of Words and Water 2014* and "Light in the Water" in *Likhaan 8*. Her stories have also appeared in *The Philippines Graphic Magazine*, including 'In the Dark Zone' which was a third-prize winner of their 1999 contest. She has also published a young adult historical novel, *Woman in a Frame*, which was a finalist for the 2015 National Book Awards and winner of the 2013 Filipino Readers' Choice Award for fiction. Her other published books are children's picture books: *Hating Kapatid*, *Bilangan sa Karagatan* and *A Boy of Buhi*. She is a graduate of the University of the Philippines with a bachelor's degree in Art Studies and a master's in Creative Writing.



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# THAILAND



Penguin Books

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[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	<b>30th November, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882989</b>

Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/Society and Culture</b>
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Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>252 pages</b>

Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
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Author based in	<b>Bangkok</b>
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## The Margins

### John Wigglesworth

#### Keyline

They wanted to escape capitalism; instead, they created the perfect business

#### Description

It's a tragedy that will make headline news across the globe—the bodies of scores of Westerners discovered at a remote commune high in the mountains of Himachal Pradesh. Amidst a growing media frenzy, the Indian authorities are desperate for answers, and only Ethan Hicks can provide them—for no one else made it out alive. Yet as Ethan begins to recount what took place up on the mountain, it soon becomes apparent that his story will prove just as shocking as the injuries he survived . . .

Moving between the bustling streets of 1980s Delhi and the forested slopes of the Kullu Valley, *THE MARGINS* is a dark and unsettling exploration of the human condition—a tale of greed and obsession, but also of love.

#### Sales Points

- Beyond an immediate audience interested in literary fiction, *The Margins* will appeal to the gap-year generation, people who spent time backpacking in their youth, and those interested in travel fiction. The backpacker genre remains a somewhat underexploited space, yet one that has notable successes—*The Beach*, *The Backpacker*, *Losing Gemma*—as well as works that appeal to the same demographic such as *Shantaram*.
- Although set in the late 1980s for plot-related reasons, *The Margins* addresses key contemporary themes – corporate greed, the exploitation of workers / the Gig Economy, and the environmental impact of capitalism. It is purposefully relevant to many of the major issues of the day, and would thus resonate with a wide readership that cares about the increasing power of major corporations, their impact on the environment, and their treatment of employees.
- *The Margins* is “accessible” literary fiction—it is a serious work that explores the human condition (with overarching themes including greed, obsession and moral decay), but is very much character-driven and tightly plotted to ensure the reader keeps turning the pages. Also, at its heart, it's ultimately a love story—albeit it one that ends in love lost. As such, the novel has broad appeal across multiple reader segments, well beyond those simply interested in literary fiction.

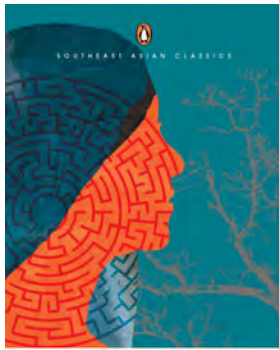
#### Author Bio

John Wigglesworth is a British national who has been based in Asia for the last ten years. *The Margins* is his fiction debut. In his spare time—when he's not writing—John runs his own company in Bangkok. A former backpacking junkie, John travelled extensively across India and South East Asia before realising that his wanderlust was incompatible with the parenting demands of his Westie. He is now settled in Thailand.



From that initial visit in 1967, she was committed to the development of neglected areas and the improvement of the villagers' living standards. Sponsored by the king, she led a medical team on many missions to distribute medical supplies, schooling equipment, blankets, and other necessities to villagers in remote and almost inaccessible parts of the South. She was killed by communist insurgents while on a routine visit to assist rural villagers in Surat Thani Province on 16 February 1977.

The translator, Tulachandra, is the pen name of the late mother of a former Thai Foreign Minister, who translated the work as a favour to the Princess. Tulachandra was well-known for having translated many Thai Classics into English.



PRISNA  
volume 1  
Princess Vibhavadi Rangsit



PRISNA  
volume 2  
Princess Vibhavadi Rangsit

Penguin Classics  
Penguin Random House SEA  
[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	<b>24th November, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 34.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>Vol 1: 9789814914154</b> <b>Vol 2: 9789814914161</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/Classics</b>
Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>Vol 1: 320 pages</b> <b>Vol 2: 368 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>
Author based in	<b>Thailand</b>

## Prisna, Volume 1 and Volume 2

### Princess Vibhavadi Rangsit, Translated by Tulachandra

#### Keyline

The story of a young modern Siamese girl and her quest for true love

#### Description

*Prisna* takes place in 1938 in Phra Nakhon, Thailand, during a time when men and women were not equals. Marriage for women meant security, not love. Prissana is the youngest daughter among four girls and was the only one raised in America by their uncle. She is outgoing, cheerful, and pretty, but at the same time, she is also headstrong, intelligent, and opinionated. She returns to Thailand after living in America for 12 years and is once again reunited with her family. Prissana, whose name means "mystery, a puzzle/ riddle," causes quite a stir in Thailand with her open, American behavior and refreshing beauty. She develops a dislike toward Taan Chai Puthpreecha, whom she has never met, because everyone puts him on a pedestal. Over the course of time, both end up having to reevaluate their presumptions of each other as they get to know one another better.

#### Sales Points

- This is a well-loved novel by a well-loved Princess. It has been made into a Thai TV series and both the novel and the TV series are accepted as classics.
- Scholars call this a progressive classic as it is one of the rare novels that depict women as equal to men, which was not a common reality at that time.
- It is dubbed the 'Emma' and 'Pride and Prejudice' of Southeast Asia.
- This is the only English translation and the only translation that the Princess' estate has authorised.

#### Author Bio

Princess Vibhavadi Rangsit née Princess Vibhavadi Rajani is a Thai writer and a member of the Thai royal family well known for her fiction writing and her developmental work in rural Thailand.

Princess Vibhavadi Rangsit was born on 20 November 1920. She is the eldest daughter of Rajani Chamcharas, Prince Bidyalongkorn and Princess Phonphimonphan Rajani (née Princess Phimonphan Voravan).

The princess was educated at the Mater Dei School, Bangkok. After completing her secondary education, she worked as a secretary for her father, who at the time was one of the most respected poets of the Rattanakosin era and wrote under the pseudonym No. Mo. So. (NMS; นมส.). Princess Vibhavadi inherited her father's gift for writing and displayed her ability as early as age of fourteen, when she began writing children's novels. She was well known by her pen-name V. na Pramuanmarg (ว. ณ ประมวณมารค Wo Na Pramuanmak). Her famous first novel, *Prisna* (ปริศนา Pritsana), was written when she was eighteen and was followed by two sequels and many other novels, some of them historical.

In addition to a full writing career, the princess worked for King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand. In 1957, she began accompanying them when they toured the country and was appointed a lady-in-waiting to the queen when they went on their first state visit abroad in 1960. Princess Vibhavadi accompanied them on seven occasions, visiting twenty-five countries.

The last ten years of her life were dedicated to rural development in southern Thailand under the direction and sponsorship of the king. Her involvement began when the monarch asked her to go to a remote area called Phrasaeng in Surat Thani Province.





From that initial visit in 1967, she was committed to the development of neglected areas and the improvement of the villagers' living standards. Sponsored by the king, she led a medical team on many missions to distribute medical supplies, schooling equipment, blankets, and other necessities to villagers in remote and almost inaccessible parts of the South. She was killed by communist insurgents while on a routine visit to assist rural villagers in Surat Thani Province on 16 February 1977.

The translator, Tulachandra, is the pen name of the late mother of a former Thai Foreign Minister, who translated the work as a favour to the Princess. Tulachandra was well-known for having translated many Thai Classics into English.



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Price	<b>SGD 29.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814914956</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/Self-Help</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>304 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Thailand</b>
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## #HAPPYxCOOL

### Happiness in relationships and at work

**Rudolf Beger, Sara Wong**

#### Keyline

An illustrated stimulant for cool people to get happy

#### Description

#HAPPYxCOOL is not one of the usual guidebooks that pretends to know the ultimate way to happiness. The work is not fixated on the personal gathering of as many feelings of happiness as possible and does not deal with happiness or the way to happiness per se. In contrast to the conventional guidebook literature, the authors rather concentrate pragmatically on the many subjective and objective obstacles that usually stand in the way of happiness. They want to motivate and assist the reader to work actively and pro-actively on themselves.

In #HAPPYxCOOL the authors don't shy away from discussing many unconventional topics such as the important issue of sexuality and happiness, adultery, bad or no sex, or a partner's obsession with pornographic movies. In a separate section, another influential aspects is discussed in some detail: the conditions at a person's workplace. This includes, amongst others, career unhappiness, unhappiness caused by toxic co-workers or a disliked boss, excessive work burden, a lack of recognition and being underpaid.

The authors give great importance to the "freedom of mind" and the concept of "being cool", thus inspiring the reader to free themselves from the constraints of happiness in a way that could be called "cool".

#### Sales Points

- There are numerous real-life examples to help him/her discover for him/herself the obstacles he/she faces in the pursuit of happiness. Dealing with these obstacles is also made easier by the numerous practical tips that allow the reader to do what suits him/her best and which can help him/her to become happier.
- The authors do not resort to the usual spongy means such as esotericism, self-discovery techniques, relaxation exercises, yoga, smelling sticks, and New Age philosophies, but remain refreshingly down to earth and pragmatic throughout.
- The authors are aware that the reading habits, especially of the younger public, have changed. They have therefore made their work particularly easy to read. This is achieved through short texts, many paragraphs, capitalization of key parts to facilitate "cross-reading", many text-interrupting examples and tips and, last but not least, through the numerous ironic illustrations hand-drawn by the author Rudolf Beger. The illustrations in particular give the work an additional entertainment value beyond the content.

#### Author Bio

**Rudolf Beger** is a German national, is a former chairman of trend-setting conferences at Management Centre Europe (Brussels) and Zentrum für Unternehmensführung (Zurich) and a speaker at industry conferences (Financial Times, UK Celebrity Speakers, pp). Rudolf wrote standard-setting books on corporate communication (in German (Gabler Verlag, 1989), and in English: "Present-Day Corporate Communication", [www.springer.com](http://www.springer.com), 2018); he is also the author of a romantic novel entitled "Dreisam", published by Fouquet's Literatur-Verlag (out of business), 2003 (currently translated into English for publication). In 2020, Rudolf will complete a highly topical 450-pages political thriller entitled "The Lobbyist" on the automotive industry (for publication). Rudolf wrote numerous articles, papers and White Papers on EU industrial policy, and was a writer for German antique magazines. His artistic works were shown in ca. 40 solo- and group exhibitions all over the world. In 2011, he won the 1st Prize for his artistic work by the Monaco State Ministry/UNESCO.

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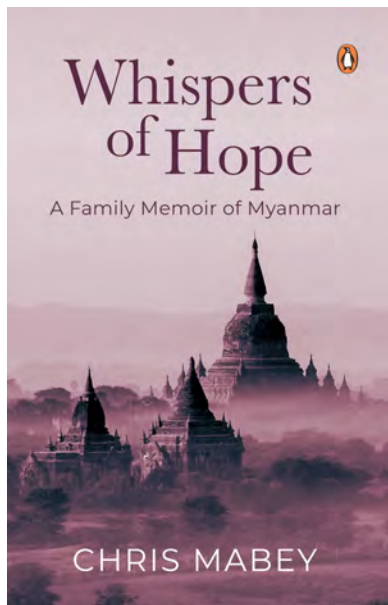


**Saraphun Wongngernyuang** is a Thai national, is an enthusiastic lifelong learner about happiness. She has experience in the practice of Buddhism and Christianity since her youth and continues to learn about the philosophy of happiness from various sources, including New Age, Taoism, Zen Buddhism and Confucius. For seven years she has been studying and training the subject of happiness at the Institute for the Study of Human Happiness (Happy Science). Occasionally she speaks on the topics of self-development and happiness in public lectures and seminars organized by the Institute, namely "Tips for Happiness", "Creating the Best Couple Relationships", "Zen Self-Reflection" and "The Noble Eightfold Path". In 2019 she translated a self-help book entitled "Tips to Find Happiness" by the Japanese author Ryuho Okawa, IRH Press Publisher, from English into Thai. She writes and has editorial experience with culinary and restaurant reviews on a restaurant review website Top25restaurants ([www.top25restaurants.com/bangkok](http://www.top25restaurants.com/bangkok)). Sara published an academic research paper on the preservation of Western (Portuguese) Catholicism in Thailand, entitled "The Virgin Mary in the Encounter of Cultures: Preserving Transcultural Heritage in the Immaculate Conception Community, Bangkok", published in a book entitled "Preserving Transcultural Heritage: Your Way or My Way", Caleidoscópio, University of Lisbon, Portugal (2018).



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# MYANMAR



Penguin Books

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www.penguin.sg

Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 29.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954259</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Non Fiction/ Memoir</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>288 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>United Kingdom</b>
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## WHISPERS OF HOPE

### A Family memoir of Myanmar

**Chris Mabey**

#### Keyline

The story Myanmar in a way not heard before, seen through the eyes of a Burmese family spanning the twentieth century

#### Description

As a British teenager, I meet a beautiful Burmese girl on the school bus. Her family self-exiled in 1964, soon after the military coup, to start a new life in England. My fascination is fired for this far-off land.

How did Burma, with such a regal past, swathed in natural beauty and populated by a people of unmistakable poise and serenity slide into repression and obscurity? How can the up-beat memories of April's parents be reconciled with Myanmar's current malaise?

Over 16 years I recorded the oral history, anecdotes and reminiscences of her family who were eye witnesses to momentous events in mid-century Burma. These together with more recent conversations – with Aung San Suu Kyi and a range of Burmese millennials – provide a unique portrait of Myanmar stretching back to April's great, great grandfather in 1852.

For all the woes of this country, whispers of hope can be heard.

#### Sales Points

- This book covers the themes of social justice, human rights and racial discrimination. This will appeal to readers from a variety of backgrounds, but most likely the more liberal, educated and questioning demographic. The book contains reference to several recent, searching reports on international aid, human rights, religious freedom, and political interventions. These sources will be listed at the end and will be of particular interest to this group.
- This is an absorbing, true story of initial enchantment, tragic loss, a crisis of faith and the abiding power of love in an exotic land. This will appeal to a wide audience - young adults through to mature readers in search of an unusual story, authentically narrated with provocative twists all the way through.
- It helps readers understand more deeply the historical, geographical and cultural uniqueness of Myanmar, and therefore have greater empathy with the socio-economic challenges facing this country. Readers may not have the resources to visit Myanmar themselves but will be media-savvy and will readily engage with and benefit from the conceptual analysis of the book.

#### Author Bio

Chris Mabey is an Emeritus Professor of Leadership at Middlesex University Business School and became a Chartered Psychologist with the British Psychological Society in 2002.

He has held a career-long interest in how organizations develop their leaders. More recently his research and writing have turned to leading ethical leadership and the enigma of cultural leadership in Myanmar. He recently led an ESRC-funded Seminar Series on Ethical Leadership: Philosophical and Spiritual Approaches.

Chris has 11 academic books to his name (and 20 or more refereed papers), each subject to critical peer-review. One text he authored in Human Resource Management has sales of 21,500 to date.



His dark comedy stage play "The Banker" was tagged for London's West End Production by the renowned Sonia Freedman, and one of his Screenplays, "The Wax Men" – an intense political thriller inspired by a true story – has been optioned for production in 2020.

An active conservationist, motorcycle adventurer and climber, Mark holds a Psy.D. in Organisational Psychology and studied Art and History degrees at Sussex University. To this day he upholds his love of art by painting vibrant oil abstracts, and notes Gerhard Richer as an inspiring force, from where he draws his own inspiration.

This latest book, *16 Swipes*, takes a humorous look at the world of online dating, and demonstrates his versatility sensitivity and humour as a writer.





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Publication date	14 April 2020
Price	SGD 20.00
ISBN-13	9789814882965
Category/Subject	Adult/Non-fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	B
Extent	160 pages
Territorial Rights	World

Author based in	Singapore
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## Who Killed the King of Bagan?

Jame DiBiasio

### Keyline

Unravelling the greatest mystery of Myanmar by uncovering evidence through time and place

### Description

*Who Killed the King of Bagan?* tells the story of Bagan (and thus the founding of Myanmar) through the device of a murder mystery. Bagan's most important king was Anawrahta. According to the Myanmarese chronicles, he died under suspicious circumstances, and contemporary Burmese writers surmise he was assassinated. But why, and by whom? The answers are tepid and unconvincing.

The book teases out a possible culprit who is overlooked today for long-standing cultural and religious reasons. The process of examining the evidence involves two journeys. One is through time—a rough chronology of the important kings and the racey gossip the chronicles tell about them. The second is physical—walking through ten different temples, each representing a theme in Bagan's history, and using this to unpack what the legacy of Anawrahta was.

### Sales Points

- It's fun: learn about the history and achievements of the great temple city of Bagan by following a true murder mystery.  
It's unique: there's no other book available that gives you a pop introduction to Myanmar's founding capital.  
It's concise: this short book takes you through a lot of complex history and narratives, but is designed for the busy reader.
- There is no other title about Myanmar that has been written the same way. There are two types of books about Myanmar available today. The first is academic work on history, archaeology, art and religion. But these are not books for the beach or the airplane.
- Myanmar today gets around 2.5 million visitors a year. It is still very much uncharted territory for most people. A few have been to Myanmar, but many have never heard of Bagan. But the country has only been open for about five or six years, and is set to become a major destination. Cambodia now gets over 5 million visitors a year, thanks largely to its Angkor legacy. Indeed, Siem Reap is emerging as an important gateway for backpackers who want to visit other regional sites. Myanmar also attracts high-end tourists. What it lacks is the mass market, and it's just a matter of time. *Who Killed the King of Bagan?* can be the first book on providing an entertaining pop introduction to Bagan's story—one that is far better researched and academically sound than *Lonely Planet* guides.

### Author Bio

- Jame DiBiasio is the author of *The Story of Angkor*, which was published by Silkworm Books in 2013, and was also an extensively researched history for tourists. He has also published two novels: *Gaijin Cowgirl* (Crime Wave Press, 2013) and *Bloody Paradise* (Water Street Crime, 2016). Jame has been living in Asia since 1997. He is an award-winning financial journalist and the founding editor of *AsianInvestor*.

# Silence in the Land of Gold

James Finch

**A story of intrigue set in modern Burma.**

## THE PITCH

- Despite modest development, Burma is a country in a time warp of the old Asia. It is, moreover, a land of longstanding ethnic, religious and generational warfare that simmers under the surface. People from outside are fascinated by the country. Because Finch is an expert in it and has lived there so long, he has been contracted over the years by hundreds of people, particularly those from countries in Asia, requesting an insider's view of the country. *Silence in the Land of Gold* is just such a view and will be portrayed as such in the cover art and copy.
- The book reflects a cast amount of research on Burma, its military and the Kachin independence movement.
- The story is set in the context of an intrigue in a law firm. The author is an expert on this topic, as he has practiced law in some of the most interesting situations and places in the world for over forty years.

## THE BOOK

At the heart of *Silence in the Land of Gold* is an intrigue over a fortune lost in an air crash involving the Burmese military and the Kachin Independence Army. George Wilford is a foreign lawyer who must solve the mystery of the crash to save his own life and that of the woman with whom he falls in love.

## THE AUTHOR

James Finch grew up in America. He began a career in international private law in Tehran, Iran. He later joined the US Foreign Service, serving in Ecuador, Trinidad and Argentina. Returning to the private sector, he worked over the rest of his career as a partner in law firms in the Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Thailand and Burma, where he spent twenty-two years.

He has three published novels previous to *Silence in the Land of Gold*. Among his passions are photography and Burmese art. He has just finished the manuscript of a book on the sacred statue of Burma, a decades-long effort.

James has a house in North Carolina, USA and travels the streets and roads of the world with a camera and Debbie, the love of his life.

## ALSO AVAILABLE

*Midnight in Burma*, Asia Books, Bangkok 2001



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## SILENCE IN THE LAND OF GOLD

- James Finch

Cover to come soon...

Pub Date: 16 November 2021

ISBN: 9789814954945 / 9814954942

Price: SGD27.90

Subject: **Military History**

Format: **198mm x 129mm**

Binding: **Paperback**

Extent: **336 pages**

Territory: **World**

Bar Code: **9789814954945**

BIC Code: **HBW**

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Price	<b>SGD 29.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954402</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction/ Murder Mystery</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>298 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>New Zealand</b>
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## The Raffles Affair

**Vicki Virtue**

### Keyline

A fun, modern twist on the classic whodunnit, set in the glamorous surrounds of Raffles Hotel.

### Description

*The Raffles Affair* is a light-hearted murder mystery featuring the elegant former MI6 agent Victoria West. A retro, tongue-in-cheek homage to the Golden Age mystery novel epitomised by Agatha Christie. Beautiful former MI6 agent, Victoria West, arrives at Raffles Hotel in Singapore for the wedding of her good friend, Silicon Valley entrepreneur Peyton Latchmore. Fresh from a grueling three-month assignment in East Africa, Victoria's plans for a relaxing break come to an abrupt end with the kidnapping of Peyton's fiancé, the charmingly handsome English financier, James Winstanley. Warned not to contact the police, Peyton begs Victoria to help. Reluctantly, Victoria agrees. Immediately it is clear the kidnapper knows too much to be a stranger, and Victoria suspects one of the wedding guests is involved. Tensions simmer, as one by one their motives are revealed. With only 24 hours to make the ransom payment, Victoria must act quickly.

### Sales Points

- It's a contemporary take on the Golden Age whodunit, making it murderously good fun to read.
- It's an armchair escape into a glamorous and exotic world (the latter being more relevant for audiences outside Singapore, although Raffles Hotel as a location will undoubtedly appeal to local readers. The idea with the series is to set each book in a new location so readers can enjoy new places, cultures and cuisines while they figure out whodunit).
- It has a strong, young female protagonist.

### Author Bio

Like her heroine, Vicki has led a truly international life. Growing up in New Zealand she started work in the advertising industry and her career has taken her all over the world from Dubai and Singapore to her creative spiritual home in London. During her career she has worked on blue chip accounts including Singapore Airlines, Marks & Spencer, Coca-Cola and Unilever.

She maintains access to marketing experts in the Advertising and Public Relations industries in the UK, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and Australasia.

Throughout her life, Vicki has found joy in travel. From the Libyan Sahara to the glaciers of Greenland, she has explored some of the most remote and fascinating corners of the planet giving her plenty of first-hand source material for future books!

Vicki now lives in New Zealand and still travels whenever she can, having recently scaled Mt Kilimanjaro, trekked to Everest Base Camp and scuba dived in the waters of New Caledonia.

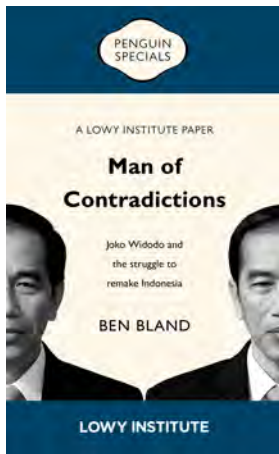
To date, Vicki has visited more than fifty countries and in 2005 began writing about the places she has been. Her articles have appeared in a variety of leading publications including the NZ Herald, Life and Leisure Magazine and M2 Woman. Since the age of twelve, Vicki has performed on the stage, both as an actress and dancer; along with the occasional appearance on television. She also has extensive experience on radio, having for many years been a regular travel correspondent for Radio Live, a high-rating lifestyle programme with around 70,000 regular listeners.

Today, alongside her writing, Vicki runs her own business teaching Speech and Drama and public speaking to business executives.



Given her background as an actress, Vicki is very comfortable being in the spotlight; whether it be in a broadcast interview, promotional video or participating in literary festivals. She is also happy to combine her love of travel with promotional appearances in places from Timbuktu to Idaho!  
In 2014, Vicki was long-listed for the Margery Allingham Short Story Competition run by the Crime Writers' Association in the UK.





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Price	<b>SGD 15.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954600</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Political Biography</b>

Binding	<b>A</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>192 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

## Man of Contradictions

### Joko Widodo and the struggle to remake Indonesia Ben Bland

#### Keyline

The first English-language political biography of Joko Widodo, from the Lowy Institute.

#### Description

Although he has dominated Indonesian politics for years, President Joko Widodo remains an enigmatic figure.

He has consistently defied both his sternest critics and his strongest supporters. A brilliant instinctive politician, Jokowi was resoundingly re-elected in 2019.

However, he has struggled to turn success at the ballot box into the transformational change that Indonesia desperately needs.

Jokowi has vowed to turn Indonesia into an Asian powerhouse with a strong economy and the heft to defend its international interests at a time of renewed US-China rivalry. But progress has been slow, and the scale of the challenge is increasing, at home and abroad. As he gets to work in his second and final term, will Jokowi deliver on his grand ambitions? Or will Indonesia once more fall short of expectations?

*Man of Contradictions*, the first English-language political biography of Jokowi, will examine how he became so popular, what makes him tick, and why he will struggle to remake Indonesia. The key to understanding Jokowi lies not in uncovering some core inner convictions but in embracing his contradictions. He rose from obscurity thanks to Indonesia's free and fair elections, but he has been a poor guardian of democracy. As an outsider he promised to shake up the corrupt and nepotistic elite, but he has become a consummate transactional politician. As a former factory owner, he pledged to open up the economy to foreign investors, but he has pursued a campaign of nationalisation and prioritised state-owned companies.

Ultimately, the conflicts within Jokowi reflect the profound tensions in a young democracy that is still trying to escape a legacy of colonial oppression and domestic dictatorship, and make its own way in the world.

#### Sales Points

- This is the first English-language political biography of Jokowi, the current president of Indonesia.
- The book comes at a time when the stakes of national and world leadership are perhaps at an all-time high.
- The book provides an insight into the man who recently reshuffled his parliament, leaving many of his countrymen wondering what his real intentions are with the appointment of many controversial names as ministers.

#### Author Bio

Ben Bland is director of the Southeast Asia project at the Lowy Institute.

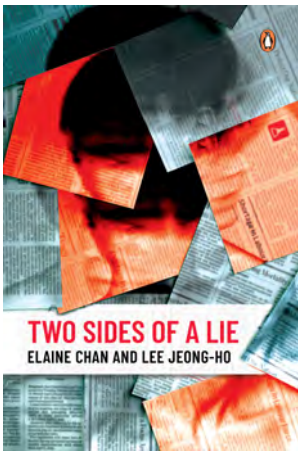
Before joining the Lowy Institute, Ben was an award-winning foreign correspondent for the Financial Times, with postings in Hanoi, Hong Kong and Jakarta and experience reporting across China and Southeast Asia over the previous decade.

His first book, *Generation HK: Seeking Identity in China's Shadow*, was published in 2017, examining the growing tensions between Hong Kong and Beijing. It was described as a 'David versus Goliath tale' by the Sydney Morning Herald and commended by the Times Literary Supplement for its 'lively prose' and 'illuminating' comparisons.



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SEA

# HONG KONG



**TWO SIDES OF A LIE**  
ELAINE CHAN AND LEE JEONG-HO

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Pub. Month	<b>July 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954075</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/ General Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>276 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore &amp; Republic of Korea</b>
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## Two Sides of A Lie

**Elaine Chan and Lee Jeong-ho**

### Keyline

A tale of a Hong Kong journalist's struggle to unravel the truth of a pro-democracy protester's suspicious death, amid the city's political turmoil and its increasingly fragile relationship with its political master, China.

### Description

This story is inspired by real events.

It was a chilly September evening when the body of a young pro-democracy protester surfaced in Hong Kong's eastern Yau Tong Bay. The local police quickly concluded his death as accidental drowning but fellow protesters believe it was part of a dark ploy by the authorities to quash the political movement.

James Lai, the Han Herald's senior reporter, is assigned to investigate the mysterious death. Unbeknownst to him, the assignment is a front created by his editors to shift the narrative against leaders in Beijing, unnerved by the intensified public opinion. As he digs deeper, he finds himself coming to close brush with the forces of a power struggle among the Party's top brass. His pursuit of the truth challenges his personal and professional integrity at every step of the way. Faced with a politically-pressured media environment in Hong Kong and the Herald newsroom that has declined from a once globally respected publication to a propaganda mouthpiece, James can only trust his own journalistic beliefs and dogged reporting to piece together the mystery and bring the story to life. Nonetheless, the answers he uncovers of the conspiracy are more sinister than he could have imagined.

### Sales Points

- As a rising power, Chinese coercion has drawn increasing concern among its neighbouring countries as well as internationally. China's increasingly hardline moves towards Hong Kong since the anti-extradition bill protests broke out in April 2019 exemplified the distance it is prepared to go to uphold the party ideology.
- The decline of democracy is taking place all around the world, according to the latest annual Freedom in the World report by a watchdog group Freedom House. The third wave of democracy - the latest surging of democracies around the world, as highlighted by Samuel Huntington - came to a halt, and the reversal is taking place consistently and ominously, eroding the individual's freedom. China sits in the centre of the problem. It is exporting its model of internet censorship and surveillance system and facial recognition technologies around the world, restricting the expansion of democracy, putting a challenge in securing the existing universal value on human rights and humanitarianism.
- We live in an era of fake news and misinformation, which makes the media's role and responsibility ever more crucial. But political and commercial pressures have coerced media companies to self censor, and social media's rise blurs the line between what's real and not. The threat on credible journalism is very real, and the novel will write of insights to show the risks in compromising the news.

**Author Bio**

Elaine Chan is a journalist and writer covering Asia and Greater China. She was the Shanghai bureau chief of *Bloomberg News* and had written and edited for the likes of the *South China Morning Post* and the *Associated Press*.

While growing up in her native Singapore, she also trained in Western art and painting. But realising she'd never be a Van Gogh, she decided to pursue journalism which she believes is the society's conscience. *Two Sides Of A Lie* is her first novel.

Lee Jeong-ho is a journalist and writer covering East Asia and the Korean peninsula. He has written for *Bloomberg News*, the *South China Morning Post* and *News1 Korea*. He believes that media exists for the progression of democracy, to empower individual citizens of democratic ideals through the dissemination of information.

Jeong-ho grew up in South Korea and Australia. He had also worked as an officer in the South Korean Air Force, before becoming a journalist. *Two Sides Of A Lie* is his first novel.

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SEA**A LONG ROAD TO  
JUSTICE**

Stories from the Frontlines in Asia

-Sylvia Yu Friedman

Cover to come soon.

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

www.penguin.sg

Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954341</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Non Fiction/Memoir</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>296 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Hong Kong</b>
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**A LONG ROAD TO JUSTICE****Stories from the Frontlines in Asia****Sylvia Yu Friedman****Keyline**

A journalistic account of the abuse and enslavement of women and girls in Asia

**Description**

A constant stream of impoverished women and girls have been, and are being, enslaved and abused in the Asia Pacific region. Slavery is not a historical issue – it's happening today. History is repeating itself.

Through my work in journalism, counter-trafficking and philanthropy, I've had rare and incredible access to victims of sex trafficking and modern slavery in China, Thailand, Cambodia, North Korea, South Korea, Myanmar and Indonesia.

Amid this terrible human suffering, I've seen frontline workers carrying a great light that has overcome the darkness in some of the most frightening places on Earth. With my husband, Matthew Friedman, a leading international anti-slavery professional with 30 years of field experience, I've campaigned against modern slavery and informed and mobilised many people, churches and organisations around the world for this cause.

This memoir describes my personal journey in the fight against slavery through supporting philanthropic initiatives and raising awareness through writing articles and producing films. I share my personal setbacks, and how my awakening to the plight of the victims of Imperial Japanese sex slavery during World War II helped me come to terms with my identity issues over my Korean heritage. I write about the lessons – the good, the bad, and the ugly – and the people and events that have shaped me along the way.

The overarching purpose of writing this personal coming-of-age story is to inspire and mobilise people to get involved in fighting slavery.

**Sales Points**

- Friedman's work in the field as a journalist, filmmaker and philanthropy adviser has given me access to victims of slavery, their pimps and traffickers, and the frontline workers who are trying to help them. The victims are mostly vulnerable people who do not have a voice – their stories must be heard.
- Friedman's work on slavery issues has broken new ground. Her previous book, *Silenced No More*, is the only journalistic account of Japanese wartime sex slavery, and her articles for the South China Morning Post has exposed new forms of modern slavery in Hong Kong and Asia.
- The #blacklivesmatter and #metoo campaigns have successfully focused the world's attention on racism and sexual harassment; it's only a matter of time before we see a similar groundswell around the issue of modern slavery, the greatest scandal of our time.

**Author Bio**

Sylvia Yu Friedman is an award-winning filmmaker, investigative journalist, international speaker, writer, and advisor to philanthropists.

She is the author of two books: *Silenced No More: Voices of Comfort Women*, the only journalistic account of Japanese military sex slavery during the Second World War, and *Heart and Soul: The Life Story of Pastor Augustus Chao*. The first editions of both of these books sold out, and the former was #5 on the Amazon Kindle store's Asian History bestseller list in August 2018.

In 2017, Sylvia was listed in Assent Compliance's 'Top 100 Human Trafficking & Slavery Influence Leaders'. In 2013, she won the prestigious International Human Rights Press Award for her three-part documentary series on human trafficking in China, Hong Kong and Thailand.



After ten years of intensive research and interviews with elderly survivors, academics, lawyers and activists in different countries, Sylvia is considered a global expert on the victims of Japanese military sex slavery, known as 'comfort women'. She's been interviewed or featured by the BBC, CNN, CGTN, South China Morning Post, and The Globe and Mail, and covered widely in the media across China and the rest of Asia.

Sylvia is listed as a SheSource expert in the database of the Women's Media Center, which was founded by Jane Fonda and Gloria Steinem, and serves as a resource for journalists.

Sylvia believes her core calling is to use her communication skills to mobilise people and resources to help those suffering in the most marginalised places. Since 2005, Sylvia has managed and directed millions of dollars to major humanitarian portfolios, impacting the lives of more than a million people. This work has given her access to many influential networks in different countries.

Sylvia led a Hong Kong-based movement of 'passionate compassion' against human trafficking that involved more than 120 churches, NGOs and organisations, and later expanded to other countries, including Malaysia, China, Canada, South Africa and the US. Through more than 50 slavery awareness events over 18 months, her team has reached more than 25,000 people in universities, schools and major corporations like Goldman Sachs.

Sylvia is married to Matthew Friedman, a leading global expert on slavery who is currently the CEO of The Mekong Club and was formerly a United Nations director and US diplomat. In the summer of 2016, they delivered 113 presentations in 27 US cities. She and Matthew are based in Hong Kong.



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Where were you?

A Profile of Modern Slavery

-Matthew S. Friedman

Cover to come soon...

Penguin Books

Penguin Random House SEA

www.penguin.sg

Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954433</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>256 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Hong Kong</b>
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**WHERE WERE YOU****A Profile of Modern Slavery****Matthew S. Friedman****Keyline**

My boots-on-the-ground work to fight human trafficking throughout Asia

**Description**

There are more slaves in the world today than any other time in history. Enter the world of human trafficking and explore what we can do together to end this global crime. *Where Were You?: A Profile of Modern Slavery* by Matthew Friedman provides an up-to-date overview of human trafficking, a largely ignored present-day evil, and recounts true stories of enslavement in Asia today.

Former United Nations and USAID expert Matthew Friedman obtained in-depth first-hand knowledge with boots-on-the-ground work over 30 years throughout Asia. Human trafficking exists in nearly every nation on earth and Friedman has personally interviewed hundreds of freed slaves and imprisoned traffickers throughout South and Southeast Asia.

The modern slave trade operates in brothels, fisheries, clothing and chocolate industries, as well as a myriad of other manufacturing jobs and is a billion dollar business that continues to grow unchecked.

Even with the collective response of governments, the UN and civil society partners, less than 0.12 percent of the victims are assisted.

'We're not winning the fight against human slavery. Relying solely on the anti-slavery community around the world to tackle the scourge of modern slavery and the criminals behind it simply is not working. Unless something drastic changes, this trend will continue unabated,' writes Friedman.

This book not only reveals the plight of human trafficking victims, Friedman also offers valuable advice and guidance related to his own personal experiences working in the counter-trafficking and development world. He offers valuable lessons for those thinking about entering this field.

**Sales Points**

- This is a rare book that documents the early beginnings of human trafficking in Asia more than 30 years ago, before the term was coined, as told by a leading pioneer and authority on the issue. Through Friedman's compelling storytelling and perceptive observations, the readers will gain a deep understanding of human trafficking and modern slavery, a global human rights issue that affects us all through the food we eat, the clothes we wear, our mobile devices and more.
- Friedman has an influential platform through his work at the Mekong Club where he speaks on slavery to more than 20,000 people a year at 160 events (For instance, in Singapore, Friedman has spoken to executives at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel, Google, Facebook, HSBC, the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, American Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Embassy, Macquarie bank and more). He is a trailblazing changemaker and pioneer in the movement against the slave trade in supply chains through influencing and harnessing the power of the corporate world in Asia. He is a published author of 12 books and of numerous reports and white papers on modern slavery. Friedman's TEDx talk on modern slavery had nearly 180,000 views: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUR\\_yFYDtOo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUR_yFYDtOo)
- This book can help inspire a generation to turn the tide in the fight against modern slavery around the world. This is not just a book but a life message from a humanitarian who has dedicated his life to eradicating slavery and exploitation and to the rights of girls and women. This is a teaching guide and a catalyst to a justice movement. Friedman has inspired many corporates to join the global fight against the enslavement of people – from the CEOs of major banks to the largest supply chain company in the world – and this book could reach millions more. In turn, as people get involved in volunteering or helping to end slavery through more informed personal decisions, they could experience a life transformation on some level.



- Besides his influential global keynote speaking platform as a thought leader, Friedman has connections with captains of industry and a considerable social media platform. His combined social media followers total 70,833, including 34,332 followers on his blog (with his wife). The Mekong Club reaches 8,000 people globally with its newsletter. Through his connections in the corporate world, there is great potential to sell this book to CSR departments. In addition, he regularly speaks at universities and high schools.

### Author Bio

Matthew Friedman is a leading, internationally renowned global expert on modern slavery and human trafficking. An award-winning public speaker, author, filmmaker, and philanthropist, Friedman regularly advises heads of governments and intelligence agencies.

As the founder and CEO of The Mekong Club, Friedman is considered the leading catalyst of the anti-slavery movement in Asia's business sector by captains of industry. The Mekong Club is one of the first international not-for-profit organisations of its kind based in Asia to use a 'business-to-business' approach to fight slavery. Bridging the gap between the public and private sectors, the Mekong Club helps companies of all sizes to understand the complexities of human trafficking and to reduce their vulnerability within their supply chains/business environment. Together with business partners, the Mekong Club is spearheading innovative and strategic projects to achieve a slave-free world.

In 2017, Friedman received the prestigious 'Asia Communicator of the Year Gold Award' for giving more than 800 presentations to 80,000 people, including government leaders and the Vatican, on the topic of modern slavery within a five-year period in different countries. Friedman has a unique and powerful speaking style that inspires people and helps them reach their fullest potential. Each year he is cited at least 40 times in the news media (CNN, Bloomberg, Reuters, Associated Press, the Financial Times, The Economist, etc.) and invited to speak at major international conferences around the world.

During his time as a UN and US diplomat, he managed and directed tens of millions of dollars to major humanitarian portfolios impacting millions of people for the World Bank, the U.S. State Department, and the United Nations. His work over the last 30 years of pioneering and managing international anti-human-trafficking projects from Nepal, Bangladesh, Thailand and Hong Kong has given him access to many influential networks in different countries throughout the world. Friedman is the author of 12 books including non-fiction accounts of his human rights work, to a book that outlines his unique philosophy of 'time'. A long-time supporter of film and the media arts, Friedman was an executive producer and advisor on four award-winning films, one of which was nominated for an Emmy and another executive produced by Emma Thompson.

Friedman has launched a new global campaign called Be the Hero and has published a book to go with it entitled *Be the Hero: Be the Change* (published on Amazon in March 2020). He believes that the collective actions of ordinary people have the greatest chance of effecting a real transformation. He considers everyone who volunteers, no matter how big or small the gesture, to be heroic. Friedman is represented by international speaker agencies and provides a range of inspirational keynote speeches to teach, mentor and motivate people from all walks of life to step up and take a stand in life. He has an uncanny ability to take something as complicated and confusing as slavery and break it down into a series of simple messages that walk an audience down a path to understanding. He has shifted the mindsets of many, even the most resistant detractors. His is always a message of hope.

Friedman is married to Sylvia Yu Friedman, who is an award-winning journalist, filmmaker, international speaker, and author of *Silenced No More: Voices of Comfort Women*. She also fights the scourge of modern slavery, and together in the summer of 2016, they gave 113 presentations in 27 U.S. cities. Friedman has done speaking tours in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Singapore.



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Publication date	<b>29 January, 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 22.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954129</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Hong Kong</b>
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## Lockdown Lovers

**Michael O'Sullivan**

### Keyline

A tale of surviving the pandemic and even finding love from across two continents.

### Description

Lockdown Lovers is a five-part love story set in lockdown conditions in two regions, Asia and Europe.

In Part I, set in Hong Kong and China, forty-something academic John Ryan goes to the local 24/7 McDonalds every day to record events around him. We also get regular updates and reflections on the time of lockdown from Phoebe Ho, Kwok-ying and a pangolin. Phoebe is a twenty-something Hong Kong activist and recently elected local councilor, Kwok-ying is a government health official, and the pangolin is one of the mammals reported as being at the root of the virus.

In Part II, John, Phoebe and Kwok-ying have all had to go into quarantine as they have picked up the virus. John and Phoebe grow closer in unique lockdown conditions. Part II ends on the night before their passionate encounter in Phoebe's quarantine quarters.

Part III is set in lockdown conditions in Ireland, Europe. John's parents are in the vulnerable category and have been ordered to stay in their homes. John tells no one but his parents that he has returned. He delivers groceries and medicine to his parents' porch but the pain is too much when he sees them staring at him from twenty feet away behind the porch door.

In Part IV, John has come back to Hong Kong from Ireland and is living on his own. Phoebe is caught up in events taking place in Hong Kong. Kwok-ying still sends in his witty comments about the Government.

Part V takes place in Hong Kong and China two years after the first outbreak. Each character has moved on, and the pangolin is flourishing.

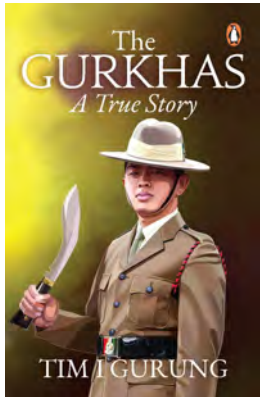
In this pandemic-ridden world, this novel reminds us how human contact will never cease to be mankind's saving grace through the darkest times.

### Sales Points

- It is about lockdown, an unprecedented global experience. It does not happen often and hence stories during a lockdown are rare and unique.
- It is a love story set in lockdown in Asia and Europe, with very familiar Asian themes.
- Having gone through a lockdown, readers will be able to connect with many the situations and feelings that the characters go through.

### Author Bio

Michael O'Sullivan is a writer and academic based in Hong Kong. He has published 12 books on literature, philosophy and education. His most recent book Cloneliness was published by Bloomsbury in 2019. His poetry and essays appear in Times Higher Education, Voice and Verse, Asian Cha and PEN Hong's Kong's recent Hong Kong 20/20.



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Publication date	<b>25th February, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 21.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882811</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B format</b>
Extent	<b>256 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Hong Kong</b>
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## Gurkhas - A true story

**Tim I Gurung**

### Keyline

A comprehensive collection of complex experiences of Gurkha's life from within, illustrating the history of the Gurkhas but also its ramifications in the community as well as the nation as a whole

### Description

The Gurkhas – A True Story' is a complete book for, to and by a Gurkha. It covers the Gurkhas' story from the start to the very present albeit in brief. The book not only deals with the Gurkhas history but also its ramifications in the community as well as the nation as a whole.

The Gurkhas is an institution with over 200-year-old history and renowned to the world as the brave of the braves. The Gurkhas with their famous kukri had no peers in both WW1 and WW2, and they are probably the only such force in the world which had won wars by name alone.

There wasn't a single war in which the Gurkhas didn't fight alongside the British, and they were always at the forefront of any battles. In WW1 alone, 200,000 Gurkhas out of Nepal's five million populations participated for the British cause, and one in ten never returned. Further 250,000 Gurkhas went alongside the British in WW2 again, and almost 33,000 men didn't return. The Gurkhas fought in many countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo, East Timor, Hong Kong, Cyprus, the Falklands, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Kosovo for the British in its 200-year-long history since then. After the end of the British reign in Asia (India, Malaysia, Singapore and eventually Hong Kong in 1997), about 3500 Gurkhas are currently serving the British Army in the UK. Also, almost a hundred thousand Gurkhas serve in various units and corps of the Indian Army while the Singapore Gurkha Contingent (GC) has 2000 and Gurkha Reserve Unit (GRU) in Brunei employs about 500 men.

An Institution that lasted for more than 200 years cannot survive by bravery alone. The Gurkhas are naturally brave, no doubts about that. Outside factors such as political, social, religious, racial, and traditional also affected the Gurkhas in great deals whereas the inherited virtues such as loyalty, devotion, tenacity, hardworking, adaptability as well as being able to face difficulty with a smile made them tough from the inside. Most important, it was their upbringing that taught them to respect their elders as well as their masters made them a perfect soldier.

### Sales Points

- Many books have already been written on the Gurkha subject. However, they are mostly written by the western writers and lacked the real understanding of the Gurkhas' way of life. Since former British Gurkha officers wrote most of the Gurkha books, they saw themselves as the protagonist and ended up romanticizing their story more often than not. As of that, they have become rather one-sided and an incomplete. As the saying goes – every coin has two sides, and the Gurkhas' story won't be completed until that other side of the story is told.
- Who could be in a better position than the author to tell that side of the story? Not everyone from Nepal could become a Gurkha. Only men from four particular tribes of Nepal could join the army, and the British called them 'The Martial Race.' They were GURUNG and MAGAR from west Nepal and RAI and LIMBU from east Nepal. Men from these four tribes were the backbone of the British Gurkha Regiments for the last two centuries, and they still are. As a GURUNG, the author does not only belong to one of these four tribes but also served the British Army for 13 years from 1980 to 1993. He has experienced the Gurkha's life from the within.
- Despite being famous, the Gurkhas are like a myth and generate many interests among people. In Singapore, people are afraid of them, and call them mercenaries who are afraid to die. The Gurkhas, not any of the

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Singapore uniformed groups, are the ones that guard the homes of the highest political appointment holders and the most critical government buildings. They have their own 'Gurkha compound' in Singapore -- even their women are children look they are built to kill. However, little is spoken about them, and they so not speak much for themselves and keep to their own community. They are a mystery which people would want to unravel.

- After India's independence in 1947, four out of ten Gurkha Regiments followed the British and moved to Malaysia and Singapore in 1948. The Gurkhas fought against the Communists in Malay Emergency 1948-60 and the Indonesian Insurgents in Borneo Confrontation 1962-66 before they moved to Hong Kong in 1971. Singapore still has a contingent of 2000 Gurkhas in Singapore Police, known as the Gurkha
- Contingent (GC) and the oil-rich Brunei has around 500 Gurkhas as of today as security guards. There are substantial numbers of Gurkhas living in SEA as civilians, and they would certainly like to read the book.

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### Author Bio

Tim I Gurung was born in 1962 at a GURUNG village called Dhampus, Kaski District in the Mid-Western part of Nepal. Mid-West Nepal is also known as one of the hot-beds of the Gurkhas, and there wasn't a single household in their village that had no connections with the Gurkhas. Gurkhas were their way of life, life starts and ends there. The school was nothing more than a formality for the GURUNG boys by then. He was no different.

He joined the British Gurkhas at the tender age of 17 as his grandfathers and uncles did before him. He realized he wasn't cut out for the regimented life within the next five years though. However, he somehow carried on for the next 13 years and eventually retired in 1993 as an Army Corporal. Then, he found a job in an international firm inspecting furniture in newly-opening-up China and worked there for the next seven years before starting his own business. He worked as a businessman for the next 15 years while raising his young family at the same time.

Before his 50th birthday, he made a life-changing decision and became a full-time writer in 2015. Since then, he learned the trade from scratch, published twelve novels, and the Gurkha book his 15th book.



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# OTHERS





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Publication date	<b>20 July, 2021 SGD</b>
Price	<b>26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954655</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ Business and Management</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Hardback</b>
Extent	<b>192 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>USA</b>
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## THE SMART BUSINESS GUIDE TO CHINA E-COMMERCE

### E-commerce Essentials for the World's Largest Consumer Market

**Frank Lavin****Keyline**

How to join China's e-Commerce Revolution

**Description**

In 2019, China overtook the United States to become the largest retail market in the world. A few years earlier China had already passed the U.S. to become the largest ecommerce market in the world. These two facts mean that every serious brand needs a China strategy and a China ecommerce strategy. The global majors, from Nike to Unilever, are already there. Ecommerce allows even the smallest of brands to compete effectively in the market.

Chinese consumers are hungry for international products, but the brand's approach must be adapted for the market.

In addition, success in China ecommerce is a stepping-stone for the product to move to full maturity in the market, developing a strong brand and off-line channels. It can also help the brand succeed in other markets, giving it scale manufacturing and allowing it to develop market-entry disciplines from logistics, to regulatory compliance, to foreign currency management.

This book is also an introduction to the extraordinary transformation that is taking place in China through consumer behaviour and ecommerce. China is starting to set the pace for international brand behaviour and there is no more vital market in the world for new brands to enter.

**Sales Points**

- Core business topic: China constitutes 15% of global GDP but represents 50%+ of global ecommerce. Every serious brand needs a China strategy.
- This could be the first trade book to capture the market's imagination of the world's largest e-commerce market.
- Enjoyable and captivating text: Written in lively and colourful prose with plenty of mini cases to hold the reader's attention. Frank explains how it is surprisingly easy to set up a China e-commerce platform by taking advantage of existing sites such as Alibaba and Baidu, etc.
- The author is an acclaimed China consultant and strategist with incredible experience in business, academia and government.

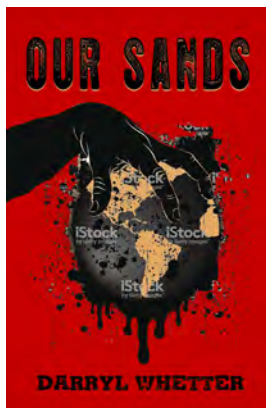
**Author Bio**

Frank Lavin has 30 years of experience helping companies succeed in China, through leadership roles in banking, marketing, and diplomacy. In government, Frank served as US Ambassador to Singapore and US Undersecretary of Commerce for International Trade. In the latter role, he was lead trade negotiator for both China and India and was the senior policy official responsible for commercial policy, export promotion and trade negotiations.

In the private sector, Frank was most recently an Asia practice leader at Edelman, and prior to that he worked in senior finance and management positions in Hong Kong and Singapore with Bank of America and Citibank. Frank also served as Chairman of the Steering Committee of the USA Pavilion at the Shanghai 2010 World Expo. Frank is the co-author of "Export Now" (Wiley).

Frank earned a B.S. from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University; an M.S. in Chinese Language from Georgetown University; an M.A. in International Relations and International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies at the Johns Hopkins University; and an M.B.A. in Finance at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Frank has a monthly column in Forbes.com, writing about China digital strategy and this market's evolving landscape.



Penguin Books  
Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	<b>11th February, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 25.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882187</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B format</b>
Extent	<b>384</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Our Sands

Darryl Whetter

### Keyline

A climate-crisis novel of eco-terrorism and bike-courier love

### Description

Seventeen year-old Ocean Janak has grown up the privileged daughter of Blake, a geologist turned Calgary oil sands executive. When she falls for Rory McAllister, a Calgary bike courier who secretly scans many of the oil contracts he's paid to deliver, she finds a lover and a comrade-in-green-arms. Alarmed by the historical Project Cauldron—the private (and patented!) American proposal to liquify the oil in Alberta's tar sands with nuclear bombs—the increasingly militant green lovers go north to Fort McMurray with the plan of exploding the containment wall of an oil-sands tailings pond dam to flood the entire region in toxins and bring the industry to a halt. The environmental racism that finds northern Canadian First Nations poisoned is also resented by Luke Simon, a Cree sniper whose bile-duct cancer brought him home prematurely from the war in Afghanistan. He, too, has a plan to stop the sands.

### Sales Points

- Climate change is the greatest issue to face humanity, and fossil fuels are intimately tied to climate change. The theme is very international and the book and the way it is written gives it potential to go beyond SEA.
- Everyone in SEA is familiar with collective living and those ways we choose individual and/or family versus the kampong, HDB block or country and when we chose individual and/or family with the collective. Our Sands straddles that balance of the individual and the collective.
- So many readers, including Guardian reviewers and prize juries, love landscape novels. People in SEA already know the crowded sidewalks, streets, and apartment buildings of SEA.
- Darryl is a prolific writer. He has done readings at SWF, the Ubud Festival of Writers & Readers and the George Town Literary Festival, plus international highlights like Goldsmiths and the Dylan Thomas Birthplace. He also contributed to The Straits Times.

### Author Bio

Darryl Whetter a writer, editor and the inaugural director of the first taught creative writing MA in Singapore and Southeast Asia.

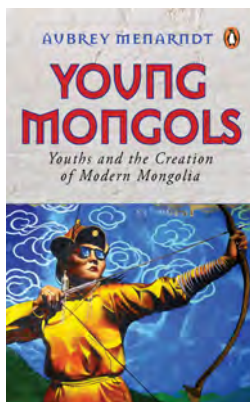
In 2003, his first book of fiction was named to The Globe and Mail's Top 100 Books of 2003. That book, the story collection *A Sharp Tooth in the Fur*, received rave reviews from coast to coast. His debut novel, a bicycle odyssey, rolled out in 2008. Look for *The Push & the Pull* wherever fine books are sold. On Earth Day 2012, he released *Origins*, a book of poems devoted to evolution, energy and extinction as they have been, can be and/or should be viewed at Joggins, Nova Scotia. His latest novel, *Keeping Things Whole*, is a multi-generational smuggling epic of love and death.

He has published nearly 100 book reviews for papers such as The Toronto Star, The National Post, The Vancouver Sun, The Globe and Mail, The Montreal Gazette and Detroit's Metro Times.

He has appeared at writing festivals and/or universities in Bali, Malaysia, Iceland, Australia, Sweden, Wales, Canada, Singapore and the US.

He wrote the books column for THIS Magazine and was Reviews Editor for the uber-cool Numéro Cinq.

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Publication date	<b>17th March, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 20.00</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882262</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>Demy</b>
Extent	<b>192 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Hong Kong</b>
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## Young Mongols: Youths and the Creation of Modern Mongolia

**Aubrey Menarndt**

### Keyline

A lot has happened since Chinggis Khan conquered the world.

### Description

Change in Mongolia has long been led by its young people. In 1989, a youth-led revolution threw off the Soviet yoke, ushering in multi-party democracy. On a frigid day in December three hundred young activists, led by 27-year-old Zorig Sanjaasurengiin, demanded that the government allow opposition political parties, freedom of the press, and respect human rights. In the ensuing months, these youth activists allied with teachers, miners, and other workers' unions throughout the country to plan protest actions and hunger strikes. By March, they staged a protest of an estimated 100,000 people, particularly significant in a city of only 800,000. In the face of their demands, the ruling party resigned and held democratic elections.

Thirty years later, Mongolia's youth are still leading their country's democratic development. Sixty-seven percent of Mongolia's population is under 35 years old, and this generation is full of inspiring leaders with clear ideas of how they want to change and grow their country. This book will provide an overview of several aspects of modern Mongolian life—feminism, the LGBTQ community, the media, urban planning and pollution, mining, and entrepreneurship—as told through the stories of the young activists working in these areas. Many of these activists have been educated at prestigious universities abroad and have turned down lucrative careers to return to their country. They believe that they can use their training to make Mongolia a place that they are proud to call their homeland.

In strong contrast to the trope of a stagnating and much-maligned millennial generation in the United States, this rising generation of Mongolians is already wielding real power and shaping their country's future. They possess an entrepreneurial spirit that is long extinct in many industrialized nations and Mongolia often meets their spirit with permissiveness and openness to change. These young Mongols' work will determine whether the country is able to overcome its development and democratization challenges, what its relationship will be to the rest of the world, and who the winners (and losers) will be in Mongolian society.

### Sales Points

- Mongolia is unique in that despite so often being a metaphor for the remote, the obscure, and the unknowable, it has near-universal name recognition because of its past of conquest. Because of this, people clamor for what little is written about it. Case in point-- Jack Weatherford's books on the country are NYT Bestsellers. But everything written about Mongolia focuses on that exoticized image of past traditions. No one has written about what the country is actually like today.
- People hunger for stories of hope and optimism in our negative news cycles. As democratic rights are under threat throughout the world, people are inspired by the stories of those who rise up from unlikely places to fight back. Mongolia is more than just a place where history happened; activists are fighting for progressive change and winning victories for human rights that many more developed countries have not yet managed. Alexis Okeowo's recent award-winning book told such a story about activists in Africa, and there have been similarly positive reactions for similar books about activists in China, India, and elsewhere.

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- Finally, the story of Mongolia's democracy is unique in many ways—it's a democracy land-locked between two non-democratic global superpowers, its revolution was peaceful, and it manages to cling to its democracy despite being overly reliant on its mined resources. Mongolia is an outlier in every way: historically, geographically, politically, and culturally. With the author's background in politics and activism, she can bring together these disparate narratives into a compelling, one-of-a-kind resource on Mongolia's recent past which will be invaluable for academics while still appealing to world travelers and curious readers from any background.

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**Author Bio**

From 2015-2016, Aubrey lived in Mongolia as a Luce Scholar. Inspired by the brilliant young people she was meeting, she produced a documentary series, *Young Mongols*, to tell the story of modern Mongolia through their work. The ten-video series covers issues such as LGBTQ life, freedom of the press, and Ulaanbaatar's deadly pollution problem. The videos were very successful domestically, gaining front-page news coverage, TV and radio interviews, and culminating in a standing-room only forum that was broadcast live to over 10,000 people. Over 25,000 people have viewed the series on YouTube and the project's Facebook page has more than 4,000 followers. She lived in Ulaanbaatar for a year, wrote her graduate thesis at Oxford about Mongolia's governance, and regularly publishes articles about the country. As a freelance journalist, she has published articles about Mongolia in Al Jazeera, the South China Morning Post, Ms. magazine, The Diplomat, and others and is skilled at distilling complex topics for a general audience. Most importantly, this is a topic and project that she is deeply passionate about—she believes that Mongolia has a bright future and that these young leaders will bring change and prosperity to their country.



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Publication date	<b>10th March, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 13.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814867221</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>Special (250x228)</b>
Extent	<b>32 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Singapore</b>
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## Everyday Ninja

**Leila Boukarim, Barbara Moxham**

### Keyline

EVERYDAY NINJA breaks down gender stereotypes with humor and plenty of ninja action.

### Description

When Kareem and Raffi see an awesome ninja at the park, they go back again and again, wondering if they've got what it takes to be super ninjas too. But the boys are in for a big surprise when the ninja does a perfect arabesque.

### Sales Points

- Starts conversations with children about breaking down stereotypes
- Encourages children to pursue what they love by reinforcing the idea that hobbies, sports, activities, etc. are not gender-specific
- Fun story with dynamic illustrations

### Author Bio

Leila Boukarim was born in Lebanon, raised in several countries, and now resides in Singapore, where she plays a key role in the Singapore chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrator. She spends her time writing stories that inspire empathy and encourage meaningful discussions between children and caregivers. Since discovering her eldest was a highly sensitive child, Leila has dedicated herself to shedding light on what it's like to have a child who doesn't enjoy the playground, sprinklers or parties, and to writing books that speak to these extraordinary children. Her latest picture book, *Best Foot Forward*, was published by Penguin Random House SEA. She has authored a total of six published picture books, and was featured in past years' AFCC and the recent Singapore Writers Festival 2018. Barbara Moxham was born in Munich, raised in Sydney and currently calls Singapore home. She worked as an art director after completing a Master of Arts in Painting and Drawing. Her addiction to books and becoming a mum led her to illustrate picture books, including two books for highly sensitive children. She uses mixed media in her illustrations, integrating whimsical characters against familiar Asian backdrops.



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Publication date	<b>24th March, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.00</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882200</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B-Format</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Columbia</b>
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## Born To Die

### Alonso Salazar

Translated by Sharmila Bhushan

#### Keyline

A riveting insight into urban violence in Medellin, Columbia's second city.

#### Description

A key text to understand the processes of urban violence in Colombia. It reveals the world of the young people who formed gangs and shook up Columbia with their recklessness. The book also explores the cultural and historical roots of a generation that got caught up in the drug-trafficking phenomenon and created a sub-culture with odd forms of religiousness, irreverent languages and a defiant attitude towards death. Salazar uses several characters to describe the tough life of young hitmen along with the inhabitants of the city's marginal neighbourhoods. A short and entertaining book. Yet hard to swallow as the reader is thrust into realities that only a few people live and understand, and many of us want to change.

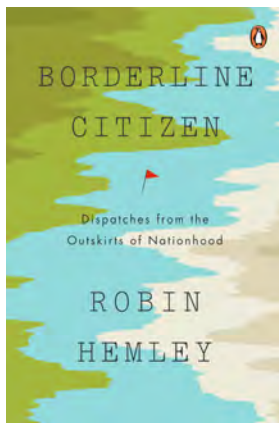
#### Sales Points

- Stories about youth gangs in Columbia are popular in movies, and garner a lot of interest.
- Alonso Salazar is well-known worldwide and this is one of his best-selling titles.
- First published in Columbia in 1990, the book rapidly became a best seller as a graphic exploration of one of the most violent societies in the world.

#### Author Bio

Alonso Salazar was the Mayor of Medellín for the period 2008-2011. His career as a writer emerged from the social and institutional crisis posed by narcotrafficking in Columbia. He won the Planeta de Periodismo Prize (2003) with *Profeta en el desierto*. His first book *Born to Die*, has become a classic.





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Publication date	<b>29 January, 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 22.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882149</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ International Affairs</b>

Binding	<b>Demy</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>240 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>USA</b>
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## Borderline Citizen

### Dispatches from the Outskirts of Nationhood

**Robin Hemley**

#### Keyline

Part travelogue, part memoir, part reportage, *Borderline Citizen* redefines notions of nationhood through an exploration of the arbitrariness of boundaries and what it means to belong.

#### Description

In *Borderline Citizen* Robin Hemley wrestles with what it means to be a citizen of the world, taking readers on a singular journey through the hinterlands of national identity. As a polygamist of place, Hemley celebrates Guy Fawkes Day in the contested Falkland Islands; Canada Day and the Fourth of July in the tiny U.S. exclave of Point Roberts, Washington; Russian Federation Day in the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad; Handover Day among protesters in Hong Kong; and India Day along the most complicated border in the world.

Forgoing the exotic descriptions of faraway lands common in traditional travel writing, *Borderline Citizen* upends the genre with darkly humorous and deeply compassionate glimpses into the lives of exiles, nationalists, refugees, and others. Hemley's superbly rendered narratives detail these individuals, including a Chinese billionaire who could live anywhere but has chosen to situate his ornate mansion in the middle of his impoverished ancestral village, a black nationalist wanted on thirty-two outstanding FBI warrants exiled in Cuba, and an Afghan refugee whose intentionally altered birth date makes him more easy to deport despite his harrowing past.

#### Sales Points

- The book features one of the most important issues of our times: who belongs in any particular nation and why? This issue, as highlighted in the book through reportage, narrative, and exhaustive research, gets at the heart of nationalism, patriotism, populism, and the sometimes arbitrary and confusing nature of borders.
- The book is of travel writing that looks with humour, insight, and compassion at some of the most far-flung and complexly bordered enclaves and territories in the world. The narration is accessible though the approach (the close up look at the territories and people featured in these pages) is unique.
- The book approaches travel writing in a novel way, avoiding the traditional pitfalls of exoticizing and patronizing the people and locales that are the various subjects of the book. As international author Xu Xi puts it: These "dispatches" are travel writing at its best, where the writer delves into the intimacies of foreign places, seeing beyond their exotic surfaces, in search of a global humanity. Brilliantly comic, darkly but poignantly introspective, *Borderline Citizen* should be required reading for the 21st century and beyond." And much of the book takes place in the Asia Pacific region: China, India, Bangladesh, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia, and the Philippines, which would be of interest to our readers.

#### Author Bio

*Robin Hemley* (Robinhemley.com) was born in New York to a literary family. His parents were both writers and publishers and translators of the Nobel Laureate Isaac Bashevis Singer. He grew up in the Midwestern U.S. and studied as a high school student in Osaka, Japan. At Indiana University, he majored in Comparative Literature and also studied Japanese and other subjects in the East Asian Languages and Culture Department. He received his MFA at The Iowa Writers Workshop in the 1980's. Since then, he has been a professor at a number of universities, including The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Western Washington University, St. Lawrence University, where he was then inaugural Viebranz Chair in Creative Writing, The University of Utah, The University of Iowa, where he directed the Nonfiction Writing Program for 9 years, Vermont College of



Fine Arts, where he was Faculty Chair, and most recently at Yale-NUS College in Singapore, where he was the inaugural Director of the Writers' Centre and where he is currently Professor of Humanities and Writer-in-Residence. He frequently gives writing workshops around the world. He is likewise a Professor Emeritus at the University of Iowa and Distinguished Visiting Faculty at RMIT University in Melbourne.

He has published fourteen books of fiction and nonfiction and his work has been published in many of the leading journals in the U.S. as well as in the U.K. Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, Singapore, The Philippines, China, Iceland, and Ukraine. He has been awarded fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation as well as the Rockefeller Foundation, three Pushcart Prizes in both nonfiction and fiction, The Independent Press Book Award, The Nelson Algren Award for Fiction, an Editor's Choice Award from The American Library Association, the Governor's Award from the State of Washington, and many others. He has been a Fellow at the Bellagio Center for the Arts at Lake Como, Italy, The Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, The MacDowell Colony, Varuna Writers Centre, The Bogliasco Foundation, The Hermitage, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and many others. He is the Founder and past President of NonfictionNOW, the leading international conference for literary nonfiction. He is a Contributing Editor of The Iowa Review, and Fourth Genre and with the writer Xu Xi, he organizes writing retreats and workshops through Authors at Large (AAlauthors.com).



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Publication date	<b>7th January, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 20.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882224</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B format</b>
Extent	<b>352 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>India</b>
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## Horrid High book: Back to School

### Payal Kapadia

#### Keyline

THE WORLD'S MOST HORRID SCHOOL JUST GOT MORE HORRID!

#### Description

When Granny Grit is called away on a most mysterious mission, twelve-year-old Ferg and his friends are left at the mercy of Cook Fracas's frenzied food fights, Colonel Craven's manic panics and Miss Nottynuf's nervous nail-biting. To make matters worse, the Grand Plan is still missing and the kids must find it before someone truly awful does.

Can Ferg and his friends survive another term at the world's most horrid school? Return to Horrid High and find out!

#### Sales Points

- Payal Kapadia is a very entertaining and imaginative writer.
- Her characters are wonderful and quirky, the language fluid, and the story fun.
- Expect fun, mystery, shock, happiness mixed in one book.

#### Author Bio

Payal Kapadia grew up reading everything she could get her hands on; writing poetry for a captive audience (her family); and presiding over a club called the Stupendous Six, which did a stupendous amount of nothing.

Her critically acclaimed debut, *Wisha Wozzariter*, won the Crossword Book Award 2013 for Children's Writing. Payal writes full-time now (if you don't count the time spent getting her two daughters to eat faster, please). She has authored *Colonel Hathi Loses His Brigade*, *Puffin Lives: B.R. Ambedkar and Washed Up!*, a reader for Australian, British and American schools. *Horrid High: Back to School* is the eagerly awaited follow-up to her bestselling school adventure, *Horrid High*.

Payal has travelled to the Jaipur Literature Festival, Bookaroo, the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival and the Kala Ghoda Festival. She reads to children at schools all over the country where she refuses to be taken seriously.

Find her at [www.payalkapadia.com](http://www.payalkapadia.com) or [www.horridhigh.com](http://www.horridhigh.com)



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Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	7th January, 2020
Price	SGD 20.90
ISBN-13	9789814882163
Category/Subject	Children's Fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	B format
Extent	320 pages
Territorial Rights	Southeast Asia

Author based in	India
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## Horrid High

### Payal Kapadia

#### Keyline

A riotous, rambunctious adventure in the world's most horrid school!

#### Description

If eleven-year-old Ferg Gottin had been bought from a store, his parents would have returned him and demanded a refund. Because, you see, for the Gottins, parenting is an experiment gone badly wrong. So when they find a school where you can dump your kids and forget about them, they decide that Horrid High is the perfect place for Ferg. But there's nothing perfect about Horrid High—it's quite unlike the boarding schools Ferg has read about in storybooks. Ferg soon realizes that this isn't just a school for orphans, runaways and rejects. Horrid High is a training ground for horrid teachers who are being sent out into the world to spread horridness! If that's not enough, Principal Perverse has a Grand Plan that he plans to reveal to every horrid teacher everywhere. Ferg and his friends are the only hope that the children of the world now have. Will they manage to save the day? Open the gates of Horrid High and find out!

#### Sales Points

- Payal Kapadia is a very entertaining and imaginative writer.
- Her characters are wonderful and quirky, the language fluid, and the story fun.
- Expect fun, mystery, shock, happiness mixed in one book.

#### Author Bio

Payal Kapadia grew up reading everything she could get her hands on; writing poetry for a captive audience (her family); and presiding over a club called the Stupendous Six, which did a stupendous amount of nothing.

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Payal has travelled to the Jaipur Literature Festival, Bookaroo, the Sharjah Children's Reading Festival and the Kala Ghoda Festival. She reads to children at schools all over the country where she refuses to be taken seriously.

Find her at [www.payalkapadia.com](http://www.payalkapadia.com) or [www.horridhigh.com](http://www.horridhigh.com)

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SEA**ELSEWHERE, HOME**

– Leila Aboulela

Cover to come soon...

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[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Price	<b>SGD 15</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954280</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult/Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>224 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>UK</b>
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**ELSEWHERE, HOME****Leila Aboulela****Keyline**

'Rich and poignant ... These beautiful tales of Khartoum, Edinburgh, London, Cairo and beyond are a delight.' A.L. Kennedy

**Description**

From one of our finest contemporary writers whose work has been praised by J.M. Coetzee, Ali Smith and Aminatta Forna, Leila Aboulela's *Elsewhere, Home* offers us a rich tableau of life as an immigrant abroad.

A young woman's encounter with a former classmate elicits painful reminders of her former life in Khartoum. A wealthy Sudanese student in Aberdeen begins an unlikely friendship with a Scottish man. A woman experiences an evolving relationship to her favourite writer, whose portrait of their shared culture both reflects and conflicts with her own sense of identity.

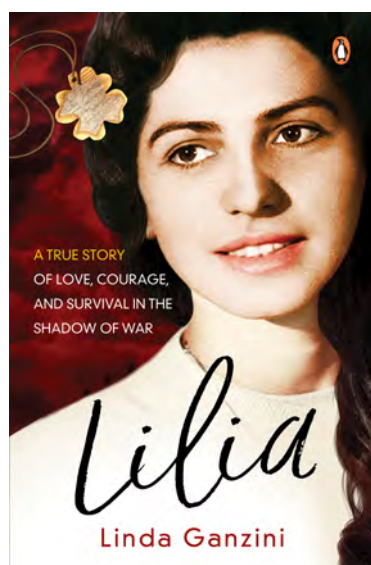
Shuttling between the dusty, sun-baked streets of Khartoum and the university halls and cramped apartments of Aberdeen and London, *Elsewhere, Home* explores, with subtlety and restraint, the profound feelings of yearning, loss and alienation that come with leaving one's homeland in pursuit of a different life.

**Sales Points**

- Intimate stories of longing and exile by one of our finest contemporary writers
- New collection from prize-winning author Leila Aboulela
- Will appeal to fans of Jhumpa Lahiri, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Alice Munroe
- Extensive publicity campaign planned, with coverage expected in a wide range of print and radio media

**Author Bio**

Leila Aboulela is an award-winning novelist and playwright. Translated into fourteen languages, her novels were all longlisted for the Orange Prize and include *The Translator* (a New York Times Notable Book of the Year), *Minaret* and *Lyrics Alley* (also Fiction Winner of the Scottish Book Awards). Aboulela grew up in Khartoum, Sudan, and now lives in Aberdeen.



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Price	<b>SGD 31.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954099</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction/ History &amp; Military</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>340 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>USA</b>
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## LILIA

Linda Ganzini

### Keyline

A true story of love, courage, and survival in the shadow of war.

### Description

Against the backdrop of fascist Italy during World War II and the Holocaust, Lilia sets the stage for the harrowing story of a family whose depth of heart overcomes a war tearing them apart—years marred by unfathomable tragedies, immense loss, upheaval, and countless betrayals.

From a young age, Lilia resigns herself to a world crushed by misery, abject poverty, and a broken, bitter mother who suffered insurmountable grief. The burden of war, loneliness, and adult responsibilities rob Lilia of a carefree childhood. Witnessing her parent's challenge to stay alive during the Nazi occupation becomes Lilia's greatest sorrow, one she makes the most heroic efforts to conceal. Ultimately, tragic loss dims the flame of Lilia's belief in her future. Just as her prayers feel unanswered, a seed of love reignites her faith, changing her destiny forever, leading her towards an unforgettable and inspiring triumph over tragedy.

This poignant account will transport you to a lost moment in history that irreversibly changes a quaint Northern Italian village, transforming its people for generations to come. Through the eyes and courageous spirit of a brave young girl, Lilia's family story comes to life on the page and will remain on your mind for a long time coming. Where there is love, hope remains.

### Sales Points

- The Asian market is distinctive for its interest in epic historical memoirs. Books like, *Bis zur letzten Stunde*; *Hitlers Sekretarin erzahlt ihr Leben*, by *Traudi Junge*, is a best-selling memoir in Singapore. It's the story of a young woman hired by Hitler as his secretary, dictating and typing his speeches and letters until his demise. And *Faithful Through Hard Times: The Uncensored Story of WW2 Malta*, by Jean Gill—the true story of Private George Taylor, and his experience against German and Italian bombers, in Malta during World War Two, as shared through his secret diary.

In the story of Lilia, children are ripped from their mother's arms; families separated—war affected everyone, not just those who were captured, tortured, and killed, but those who were left behind. Although this historical event takes place in a northern Italian village, the tragedies suffered by these innocent people are a reflection of all families from every country—people who experienced feelings of loss, grief, anger, resentment, bitterness, disbelief, and being forgotten.

The German occupation and the Jewish Holocaust have been given the spotlight through the decades via books, films, and documentaries. Like other genocidal violence against an ethnic, racial, political, or religious group, this book gives the reader an eye-opening account of the little known genocide suffered by Northern Italians at the hands of war. The same rings true for how little has been exposed about the Asian Holocaust when Japanese soldiers launched the savage invasion of Nanking, and the Pol Pot genocide in Cambodia. Northern Italians will never forget their dark period in history; neither will those who suffered in Asia. The only way to honor the millions that died at the hands of evil and aggression is by education. Asian and Western world readers alike will be drawn to and benefit from this human story.





- In Italian culture, family, respect, loyalty, and honor are strong—Asian culture holds similar values. *Lilia* is bound to connect with Asian readers who believe in the strength of family and how it shapes our beliefs, attitudes, and ideals. This story exemplifies how, through the power of love, a family united can conquer any obstacle and triumph over unimaginable hardships in poverty and war. In remembering and honoring their own tragic events throughout history, Asian readers will identify with a story about a family coming together despite impossible odds and external conflicts, such as wartime.

This book will spark meaningful conversations about all our untold life experiences, whether in the Western world or South East Asia, bringing people together across generational and other differences. Cultural trauma continues to haunt us around the world, which is why stories like these matter—so they are never repeated, and history is never forgotten.

*Lilia* is also a coming-of-age love story. It illuminates the love of family, the love amongst villagers as they struggle to survive the Nazi occupation, and one girl's dream to be rescued by one man's love from a time when the world feared its future—like war; love is universal.

- *Lilia* weaves the stories of our loved ones into more considerable historical research to discover little-known facts about events that took place in history, whether that be American, European, Asian, African, or Australian. It's an example of how to write a true story, a legacy, that reads less like a biography or memoir, and more like an evocative and compelling novel-like narrative—less telling and more showing, and in a way that heals hearts.

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### Author Bio

A first-generation Italian, Linda Ganzini was raised in North Bay, Ontario, Canada. At an early age, she embraced her passions: singing, painting, and writing. While focusing on developing her creative skills, Linda received a scholarship to art college. She has worked abroad for most of her career as a thriving graphic designer.

Linda has written advertising copy for various international clients. A lyricist and singer, she co-wrote the theme song for an upcoming feature film, *Love Letters to Amber*. She also recorded "Vancouver City," released during the 2010 Winter Olympics. The song was a global success, ranking it among YouTube's top ten videos of the decade with over three million hits. Significant networks interviewed Linda's creative team and aired the video on CTV Canada, Japan TV, and CNN's broadcast of the Olympics.

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# The Mountain Master of Sha Tin

Ian Hamilton

**Ava becomes embroiled in a violent war between feuding gangs vying for control of the Wanchai territory in Hong Kong.**

## THE PITCH

- Ian Hamilton has a strong social media presence. The Ava Lee Novels Facebook Fan page is updated with the latest reviews, quotes, and pictures and Hamilton is active on Twitter.
- Reviewers and fans compare Ava Lee to Lisbeth Salander, the protagonist in Stieg Larsson's *Millennium Trilogy*, and also see her as a female James Bond.

## THE BOOK

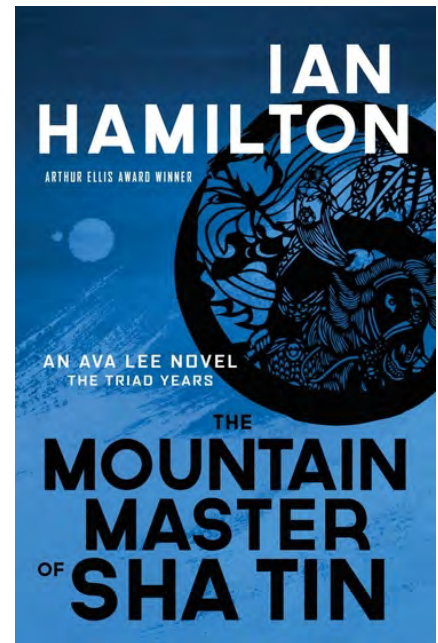
Ava is in Shanghai visiting her ailing friend, the Mountain Master Xu, when a triad war breaks out in Hong Kong. Sammy Wing, an old enemy of Ava's who has twice tried to kill her, has enlisted the aid of his nephew Carter - the new Mountain Master of Sha Tin - to reclaim control of his old territory, Wanchai, from Xu's men.

There is nothing subtle about the Wings' methods. Xu's most trusted enforcer, Lop, has been shot, and six of his street soldiers kidnapped. The Wings threaten to execute them unless Xu's men vacate Wanchai immediately. Ava steps in to broker a settlement, and the Wings respond by sending her a box containing six fingers - and a twelve-hour deadline.

As the violence and tension mount, Ava is driven to the edge, and she is forced to devise a plan that will bring her face-to-face with Sammy and Carter Wing. The only question is who will pull the trigger first?

## THE AUTHOR

Ian Hamilton is the acclaimed author of fourteen novels in the *Ava Lee* series and three in the *Lost Decades of Uncle Chow Tung* series. His books have been shortlisted for numerous prizes, including the Arthur Ellis Award, the Barry Award, and the Lambda Literary Prize, and are national bestsellers. BBC Culture named Hamilton one of the ten mystery/crime writers from the last thirty years who should be on your bookshelf.



Pub Date: 26 October 2021

ISBN: 9789815017021 / 9815017020

Price: SGD29.90

Subject: Thriller / Suspense

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 352 pages

Territory: South-East Asia - Only for sale in ID TH MY SG PH KH MM BN TL

Bar Code: 9789815017021

BIC Code: FH

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 30 June 2021



[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)



# Foresight

## The Lost Decades of Uncle Chow Tung: Book 2

Ian Hamilton

The second book in the gripping Ava Lee spin-off series features fan-favourite Uncle Chow Tung and his ascendancy to the head of the Triad gang in Fanling.

### THE PITCH

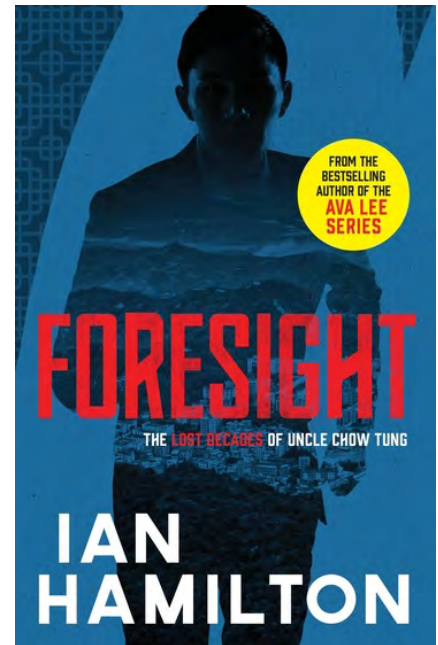
- The book provides access to some history of the developments of the last few decades in China, as well as experiences growing up in China.
- This is a tense and absorbing political thriller about how it is possible for corruption to take place in China's Special Economic Zones
- The story is full of action, and the descriptions of the various locales and food show Hamilton's deep understanding of China and Hong Kong.

### THE BOOK

1980: A pivotal year in modern Chinese history as Premier Deng Xiaoping begins what he intends to be the transformation of China into an economic superpower. The most visible evidence of Deng's policy is the creation of Special Economic Zones, and one has been set up in Shenzhen, next door to Hong Kong and on Fanling's doorstep. Among Triad leaders, Uncle is the only one who recognizes that Deng's intentions could have profound repercussions on their organizations. To protect his gang and their interests, he acts to not only minimize the danger, but to turn events to his advantage.

### THE AUTHOR

Ian Hamilton is the acclaimed author of fourteen novels in the *Ava Lee* series and three in the *Lost Decades of Uncle Chow Tung* series. His books have been shortlisted for numerous prizes, including the Arthur Ellis Award, the Barry Award, and the Lambda Literary Prize, and are national bestsellers. BBC Culture named Hamilton one of the ten mystery/crime writers from the last thirty years who should be on your bookshelf.



Pub Date: 19 October 2021

ISBN: 9789815017014 / 9815017012

Price: SGD29.90

Subject: Crime & Mystery

Format: 198mm x 129mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 352 pages

Territory: South-East Asia - Only for sale in  
ID TH MY SG PH KH MM BN TL

Bar Code: 9789815017014

BIC Code: FF

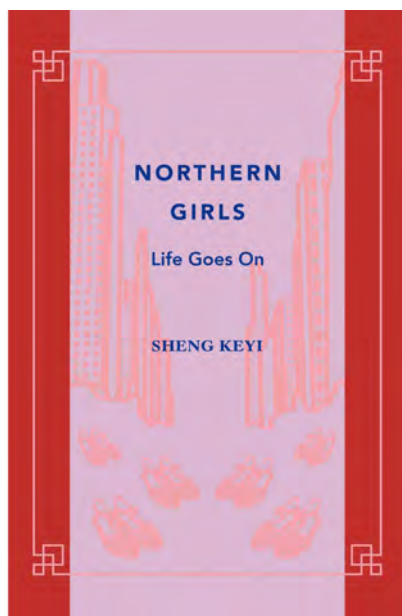
Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 30 June 2021



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Penguin Books  
Penguin Random House SEA  
[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 26.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954693</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/Contemporary</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>320 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>China</b>
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## NORTHERN GIRLS

### Life Goes On

Sheng Keyi

#### Keyline

*Northern Girls* explores the inner lives of a generation of young, rural Chinese women who embark on life-changing journeys in the search of something better.

#### Description

Qian Xiaohong is born into a sleepy Hunan village, where the new China rush towards development is a mere distant rumour. A buxom, naïve sixteen-year-old, she yearns to leave behind hometown scandal, and joins the mass migration to the bustling boomtown of Shenzhen. There, she must navigate dangerous encounters with ruthless bosses, jealous wives, sympathetic hookers and corrupt policemen as she tries to find her place in the ever-evolving society.

Hardship and tragedy are in no short supply as her journey takes her through a grinding succession of dead end jobs. To help her through this confusing maze, Xiaohong finds solace in the close ties she makes with the other migrant girls – the community of her fellow 'northern girls' – who quickly learn to rely on each other for humour and the enjoyment of life's simple pleasures.

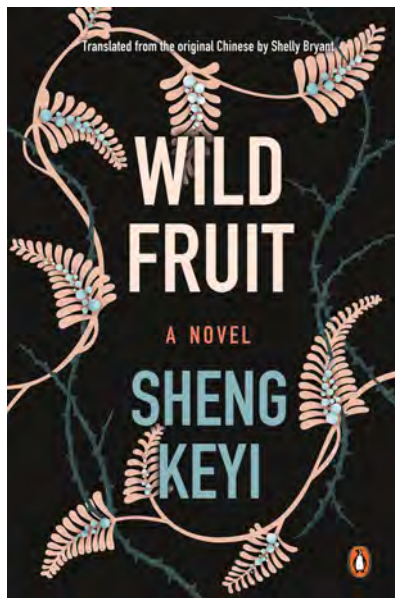
A beautiful coming-of-age novel, *Northern Girls* explores the inner lives of a generation of young, rural Chinese women who embark on life-changing journeys in search of something better.

#### Sales Points

- This is an eye-opening read about the plight of female migrant workers in China.
- It is thought-provoking, with references to problems of corruption at local official-level, which has regularly featured in the Chinese media in recent years.
- Sheng masterfully writes a sensitive narrative, spattered with unexpected moments of humour, which illustrates the resilience and independence of contemporary Chinese women

#### Author Bio

Sheng Keyi is the author of several novels and short stories. *Northern Girls*, the first of her full form works to be published in English, was long-listed for the Man Asian Literary Prize. She currently resides in Beijing, China.



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[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Pub. Month	<b>September 2021</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814954686</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Fiction/Translation</b>

Binding	<b>B</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>288 Pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>China</b>
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## WILD FRUIT

**Sheng Keyi**

### Keyline

At first glance, the Li family looks quite ordinary: one tyrannical grandfather, two overworked parents, four siblings, and one small house for them all to live in. Yet, with a journalist in the mix, its members can hardly hide their countless misfortunes.

### Description

Xiaohan, the youngest daughter, shares her family's unconventional life and exposes the depth of what it means to live in contemporary China today. Through sketches dedicated to each person in the Li clan, she shows how those close to her are forced to find new ways to survive, like wild fruit falling from a tree.

### Sales Points

- The New York Review of Books reviewed by mentioning that 'Sheng is fighting back using her opponents' tactics. Perhaps without meaning to, she accepts much of the Maoist view that words are tools of battle and that victory over an adversary is the goal of writing'.
- Mo Yan calls Sheng Keyi as a bold, talented writer. He says, 'Her wild, shrewish linguistic style is full of vigour and vitality'.
- Index on Censorship (London) attributes, 'With her raw, often humorous writing that takes on the bitter truths of modern China, Sheng has emerged as one of the most interesting and daring writers today'.

### Author Bio

Sheng Keyi is the author of several novels and short stories. *Northern Girls*, the first of her full form works to be published in English, was long-listed for the Man Asian Literary Prize. She currently resides in Beijing, China.



# Bloody Saturday

## Shanghai's Darkest Day

Paul French

***Bloody Saturday* reconstructs the events of that dreadful day from eyewitness accounts.**

### THE PITCH

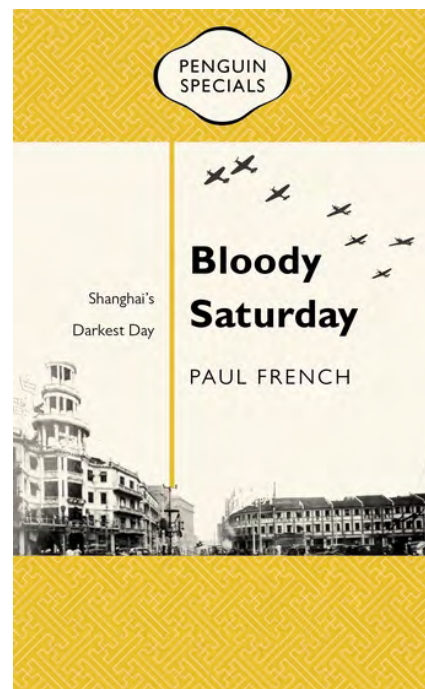
- Drawing heavily on eyewitness accounts, the book contains a stunning cast of characters and great period detail. French's mastery of the era makes for an engaging read.
- There is a growing appreciation for China's important wartime role, and people are looking at the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945) as the real beginning of the global conflict.
- Paul French is a prolific author who has written many works on twentieth-century China, including the international bestseller *Midnight in Peking* (2011).

### THE BOOK

Saturday, August 14, 1937 - that summer Shanghai was expecting to be hit by a typhoon of 'violent intensity'. The typhoon passed, but what did strike Shanghai was a man-made typhoon of bombs and shrapnel that brought aerial death and destruction such as no city had ever seen before. The clock outside the Cathay Hotel stopped at 4.27 p.m. precisely as the first bombs landed on the junction of the Nanking Road and the Bund; the second wave of explosions struck the dense crowds outside the Great World amusement centre in the French Concession. *Bloody Saturday* reconstructs the events of that dreadful day from eyewitness accounts.

### THE AUTHOR

Paul French is the author of the New York Times bestseller *Midnight in Peking*, currently being developed as a series for TV



Pub Date: 23 November 2021

ISBN: 9789814954679 / 9814954675

Price: SGD15.90

Subject: War Crimes

Format: 178mm x 110mm

Binding: Paperback

Extent: 118 pages

Territory: South-East Asia - Only for sale in  
ID TH MY SG PH KH MM BN TL

Bar Code: 9789814954679

BIC Code: JWXX

Web Address: [www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

AI Last Updated: 07 July 2021



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Penguin Books  
Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	17th December, 2019
Price	SGD 24.90
ISBN-13	9789814867993
Category/Subject	Children's/Fiction

Binding	Paperback
Format	B-Format
Extent	348 pages
Territorial Rights	Southeast Asia

Author based in	Israel
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## Winter Blue, Fairy Child - The Gems of Power

Eshkar Erblich-Brifman

### Keyline

One fairy-child, in between two worlds.

### Description

Winter Blue is a fairy-child. She leads parallel lives in two worlds - the world of humans, and another, secret, wondrous world – Magic-Land.

As an ordinary thirteen-year-old girl she attends school every day, does her homework, and spends time with her friends, none of whom know her secret. Each night, she turns into a fairy and flies to Magic-Land where she meets other fairies, dwarflings, wonder-horses, fixit moles, pink babies, and other magic beings. One day, a series of strange events starts taking place -events that disrupt the tranquil lives of all Magic-Land dwellers. A wonder-horse falls into the human world, dangerous pits are torn in the ground, and the fairies' gems of power begin to vanish, one after another..

Winter and her friends, other fairy-children, set out to investigate the mystery. They experience a series of adventures, face numerous dangers, and expose a conspiracy that threatens the very existence of Magic-Land.

The plot takes place simultaneously in both realms, sweeping readers into a fantastic, gripping and mysterious story.

### Sales Points

- The *Winter Blue, Fairy-Child* series oscillates between imagination and reality, between the life of a teenage girl with all its day to day complexities and a rich adventure story which takes place primarily in MagicLand.
- The plots are threaded between the two parallel worlds and sweep the reader onto enchanting adventures.
- Eshkar is a renowned Israeli writer that published 28 books (thus far) with some of Israel's biggest publishing houses, Yedioth Books and Kinneret Zmora-Bitan. Around 250,000 copies of her books were sold in Israel. Several of her books made it to the bestsellers lists and won gold book awards.

### Author Bio

Israeli author, Eshkar Erblich-Brifman, has published thirty-two books. She resides with her family on the outskirts of the Carmel Forest, surrounded by the nature that inspires the fantastic worlds of her books which contain spectacular views and fascinating magical creatures. Her two flagship series, 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child', and 'Anis, Beginner Witch', have won the hearts and imaginations of hundreds of thousands of readers, and have become an essential part of Israeli children's and young adult literature.



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Price	<b>SGD 22.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882309</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Children's Fiction/Fairyland</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Paperback</b>
Extent	<b>200 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>Israel</b>
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## Winter Blue Fairy-Child: The Dream Weavers

**Eshkar Erbllich-Brifman**

### Keyline

One fairy-child, in between two worlds.

### Description

Winter Blue is a fairy-child who leads parallel lives in two worlds—the world of humans, and another, secret, wondrous world—Magic-Land.

Winter and her fairy-children friends embark on a series of thrilling and dangerous adventures. They study with Ismergada how to start using the magic-dust they had received last summer. They meet Bogus, a magical and mysterious creature long-forgotten in the world of humans. And they discover, during their time in Magic-Land, that the dream-weavers have vanished! This threatens to undermine the delicate balance between the worlds. Winter and her friends embark on a mission to investigate this mystery and to help the anxious dwellers of Magic-Land restore order.

This is the second book in the beloved *Winter Blue, Fairy-Child* series. It has become an essential part of Israeli literature for children and young adults.

### Sales Points

- "The fairies' queen of ratings." Maya Sella, Haaretz Literary Supplement.
- "Enthusiastic girls (and there is no shortage of boy readers), are drawn to the wonderful world Eshkar has created, as if by a mass magnet." Elit Karp, LaIsha Magazine.
- "An enchanting author." Maya Benita, Maariv LaNoar Magazine.
- "Eshkar Erbllich-Brifman has claimed the hearts of all Israeli girls with her fantasy series 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child.'" Tal Marmelstein, Israel Today daily newspaper.
- "If anyone is deserving of the title 'The Israeli J.K. Rowling', it is undoubtedly Eshkar Erbllich-Brifman, the author behind the successful book series, 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child' and other renowned children's books." — Zohar Aliya, Ynet.
- The *Winter Blue, Fairy-Child* series oscillates between imagination and reality, between the life of a teenage girl with all its day to day complexities and a rich adventure story which takes place primarily in MagicLand.
- The plots are threaded between the two parallel worlds and sweep the reader onto enchanting adventures.
- Eshkar is a renowned Israeli writer that published 34 books (thus far) with some of Israel's biggest publishing houses, Yedioth Books and Kinneret Zmora-Bitan. Around 250,000 copies of her books were sold in Israel. Several of her books made it to the bestsellers lists and won gold book awards.

### Author Bio

Israeli author, Eshkar Erbllich-Brifman, has published thirty-four books. She resides with her family on the outskirts of the Carmel Forest, surrounded by the nature that inspires the fantastic worlds of her books which contain spectacular views and fascinating magical creatures. Her two flagship series, 'Winter Blue, Fairy-Child', and 'Anis, Beginner Witch', have won the hearts and imaginations of hundreds of thousands of readers, and have become an essential part of Israeli children's and young adult literature.



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Publication date	<b>24th December, 2019</b>
Price	<b>SGD 24.90</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814867962</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult/Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Paperback</b>
Format	<b>B-Format</b>
Extent	<b>264 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>Southeast Asia</b>

Author based in	<b>India</b>
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## Whisper in the Wind

Venita Coelho

### Keyline

A sweeping suspenseful tale of love and murder set in Portuguese Goa.

### Description

In *Whisper in the Wind*, a wind wandering through the ruins of an old church blows a letter into the path of a writer in search of a story. Laboriously written, the letter begs Sara to come home to her sister, Alice. Deeply moved, Jai Mehta promises the little orphan girl, Alice, that he will help find her sister, Sara, who has been missing for five years. Jai is a reluctant detective. He has had to hold a knife to his wrist to get his family to allow him one chance at his dream, and all he wants to do is finish writing his book. But, the story his promise leads him to is darker and more intriguing than any he could have dreamed of writing. Searching for one missing servant girl leads him into a tangled tale of loyalty and deceit. And of a love that has endured beyond the grave. Set in Portuguese-ruled Goa, this haunting tale brings the touch of the Gothic to a mystery that involves a girl with the voice of an angel, a violin that plays the sorrows of the heart, and the bond between two friends who swear that not even death will do them apart.

### Sales Points

- In this vividly written Gothic novel, Venita Coelho tells a captivating, suspenseful, sweeping tale like no other.
- The novel comes alive with the sights and smells of pre-Independence Goa.
- Venita Coelho is the author of seven published books, one of which, her book of feminist ghost stories, *The Washer of the Dead*, published by Zubaan/Penguin, was shortlisted for The Frank O'Connor Awards.

### Author Bio

Venita Coelho works with words, images and paint. She is the author of seven published books with three more scheduled for publication in 2019. She has written an award-winning trilogy published by Hachette India. *Tiger by the Tail* won a special jury mention at the Neev Awards 2018. *Dead as a Dodo* won The Hindu Goodbooks award for best Children's Fiction in 2016. *Monkey See Monkey Do* was nominated for The Hindu Goodbooks award for best Children's fiction in 2017. *Boy No. 32* published by Scholastic, was nominated for the Neev Awards 2018. Her book of feminist ghost stories, *The Washer of the Dead*, published by Zubaan/Penguin was shortlisted for The Frank O'Connor Awards.

*Soap – Writing and Surviving Television* is a standard text in media colleges. She has had a long career in television as a writer and director. The shows she has worked on include *Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi*, *Na Bole Tum Na Maine Kuch Kaha*, and *Trikaal*. She has been Vice President at Sony Television, Cinevistaas and Endemol India. She is currently writing films for Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Raju Hirani. Her work on canvas and glass was shown at her solo exhibition in Goa titled, 'The Naked Gaze'.



Penguin Books  
Penguin Random House SEA

[www.penguin.sg](http://www.penguin.sg)

Publication date	<b>7th January, 2020</b>
Price	<b>SGD 35.00</b>
ISBN-13	<b>9789814882019</b>
Category/Subject	<b>Adult Non-Fiction</b>

Binding	<b>Royal</b>
Format	<b>Hardback</b>
Extent	<b>272 pages</b>
Territorial Rights	<b>World</b>

Author based in	<b>Mongolia</b>
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## Battulga: Up Close and Personal

**D Turmunkh**

### Keyline

Biography of President Battulga (Mongolian president from 2017), on his philosophy, life experiences, successes and failures as businessman to successful politician.

### Description

This is the authorised biography of the current President of Mongolia, Khaltmaa Battulga.

Battulga and the author studied together in college. At that time, Tulgaa, as his friends fondly called him, was sewing jeans, selling records and merchandizing. Then he went on to participate in sports and won the world championship in Sambo wrestling and became World Champion, while working at the branch of the city's Craftsmen's Committee.

He went on to wear many hats of accomplishments in his life. He started a business that expanded into the Yellow Taxi Service, organised a lottery called Millionaire, opened a disco club and the first ever supermarket in Mongolia. With the advent of privatisation, he obtained big ventures like the Bread and Candy Factory, the Meat Company Impex and the Bayan Gol Hotel and matured into a major businessman known throughout the country. Since then, he was elected into the parliament three times, where he served as Minister for Road and Transportation as well as Minister for Industry and Agriculture, led the Mongolian Democratic Union and became President of the Mongolian Judo Wrestling Association. He exerted substantive effort to become the first World Judo Champion born in Mongolia.

Despite his successful ventures, he has always been a secretive person. It is difficult to hear even a few words from his mouth. Who is Khaltmaa Battulga actually? He has numerous followers and just as many fierce critics and has always been in the attention of journalists who have sometimes turned him into a subject of controversy on mass media. What does he really want? What has he so consistently been fighting for?

Based on exclusive interviews with the man himself, enriched by objective facts and events that the author has witnessed, read on as the author attempts to give the readers a better understanding of the character of the man who built the gigantic statue of Chinggis Khan on horseback and initiated an eco-town named Great Maitra, and shares what he has been up to recently.

### Sales Points

- One of the rare biographies on sitting presidents.
- There is increased interest in Mongolia. Over the last decade, Mongolia has transformed into a vibrant democracy, with three times the level of GDP per capita and increasing school enrolments, and dramatic declines in maternal and child mortality. With vast agricultural and mineral resources, increasingly educated population and a new political climate, Mongolia's long-term development prospects are bright.
- This is an honest account of his life, many aspects of which are not known to the public, as told by a very close friend.

### Author Bio

D Turmunkh is a programme director with Mongolian TV, scriptwriter, producer and founder of the independent production company Tobch Toli Prods. His movie, State of Dogs, released in 1998, received numerous international awards. He has since released two more movies to complete the trilogy.G3